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Assembly Proceedings
Official Report
Bengal Legislative Assembly
Second Session, 1946

The 17th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 30th and
31st July and 1st August, 1946



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1947

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Sir FREDERICK JOHN BURROWS, G.C.I.E.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

- (1) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department and of the Home Department.
- (2) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI, Minister in charge of the Finance Department and of the Department of Health and Local Self-Government.
- (3) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN, Minister in charge of the Education Department and of the Department of Land and Land Revenue.
- (4) The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN, Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.
- (5) The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL, Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments and of the Department of Works and Buildings.
- (6) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN, Minister in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.
- (7) The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABUL FAZAL MOHAMMED ABDUR RAHMAN, Minister in charge of the Department of Co-operation, Credit and Relief and of the Department of Irrigation and Waterways.
- (8) The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED, Minister in charge of the Department of Commerce, Labour and Industries.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur NURUL AMIN.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

TAFAZZAL ALI, ESQ., *Advocate*.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, ESQ., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

AJITA RANJAN MUKHERJEA, ESQ., M.Sc., B.L.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Ahad, Dr. [Satkhira.]
Abdul Awal, Mr. [Jessore East.]
*Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East.]
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Khan Sahib. [Madaripur East.]
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West.]
Abdul Hai, Maulana. [Noakhali South.]
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr. [Noakhali West.]
Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরি, Mr. Md. [Munshiganj.]
Abdul Halim, Khan Sahib Molla Mohammad. [Nadia West.]
Abdul Hamid, Mr. [Rajshahi South.]
Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur A. M. [Pabna West.]
Abdul Hannan, Mr. [Meherpur.]
*Abdul Karim, Mr. [Jamalpur North.]
*Abdul Khaleque, Khan Bahadur. [Dacca South Central.]
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir. [Dacca North Central.]
Abdul Momin, Mr. [Tippera Central.]
Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md. [Dinajpur Central East.]
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. F. M. [24-Parganas North East.]
Abdur Rahman Khan (*alias* Nuru Mia), Mr. [Patuakhali North.]
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajgunge South.]
Abdur Rashid, Maulana Khondkar. [Sarajgunge Central.]
Abdus Sabur Khan, Mr. [Khulna.]
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md. [Matlabbar.]
Abidur Reza Choudhury, Khan Bahadur. [Chandpur West.]
Abul Hashem, Mr. [Burdwan.]
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr. [Mymensingh West.]
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi. [Nator.]
Abul Quasem, Mr. [Hooghly.]
Acharjee, Mr. Shitangshu Kanta. [Dacca Landholders.]
Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra. [Mymensingh East.]
Ahammad Ali, Mr. Mir. [Jamalpur-cum-Muktagacha.]
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr. [Gualundo.]
Ahmed Hosain, The Hon'ble Mr. [Gaiabandha South.]
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr. [Chittagong South.]
Akbar Ali, Maulvi. [Netrokona North.]
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. [Chittagong South Central.]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr. [Brahmanbaria South.]
 Anwara Khatun. [Dacca (Muhammadan).]
 Ariff Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md. [Bakargunge North.]
 Asan Ali Muktear, Mr. [Netrokona South.]
 Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur. [Manikganj East.]
 Azizur Rahman, Mr. Syed. [Bhola South.]

B

Badiuzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr. [Bogra East.]
 Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M. [Jamalpur West.]
 Bandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath. [Midnapore South-West.]
 Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal. [Khulna.]
 Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]
 Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar. [Howrah.]
 Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra. [Calcutta & Suburbs (Registered Factories).]
 Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra. [Bogra-cum-Pabna.]
 Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan. [Jalpaiguri-cum-Siliguri.]
 Barury, Mr. Dwarka Nath. [Faridpur.]
 Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar. [Calcutta North.]
 Basu, Mr. Jyoti. [Railway Trade Union.]
 Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West.]
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra. [Dacca East.]
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath. [Dacca West.]
 Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada. [Murshidabad.]
 Birsha, Mr. Bir. [Malda.]
 Biswas, Mr. Bhola Nath. [Jessore.]
 Biswas, Mr. Gayanath. [Mymensingh West.]
 Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra. [Calcutta South.]
 Brahmin, Mr. Ratanlal. [Darjeeling Sadar.]

C

Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra. [Mymensingh West.]
 Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra. [Presidency Division Municipal.]
 Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada. [Nadia.]
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal. [Birbhum.]
 Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prosad. [Jhargram-cum-Ghatal.]
 Corstorphine, Mr. E. E. [Indian Tea Association.]

D

Das, Miss Bina. [Calcutta (General).]
 Das, Mr. Brojomadhab. [Rangpur.]
 Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra. [Tippera.]
 Das, Mr. Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East.]
 Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri-cum-Siliguri.]
 Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra. [Bogra-cum-Pabna.]
 Dass, Mr. Kanailal. [Burdwan Central.]
 Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath. [Tippera.]
 De, Mr. Kanai Lal. [Bankura West.]
 Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan. [North Bengal Municipal.]
 Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram-cum-Ghatal.]
 Duff, Mr. D. I. [Indian Jute Mills Association.]
 Dutta, Mr. Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West.]
 Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

E

Ebrahim Khan, Khan Bahadur. [Tangail North.]
 Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr. [Rangpur South.]
 *Eskandar Ali, Mr. Khan. [Madaripur West.]

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

v

F

Farid Ahmad Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur. [Chittagong North-East.]
 Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K. [Bakarganj South.]
 Fazlul Karim, Mr. [Ramganj-cum-Raipur.]
 Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur. [Chittagong North-West.]
 Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), Mr. [Dacca University.]
 Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Khan Bahadur. [Jamalpur East.]
 Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr. [Noakhali North.]
 Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]

G

Ganguli, Mr. Bepin Behari. [24-Parganas Municipal.]
 Gayen, Mr. Arabinda. [Howrah.]
 Ghose, Mr. A. K. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
 Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
 Ghose, Mr. Jyotish Chandra. [Calcutta East.]
 Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra. [Noakhali.]
 Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
 Gomes, Mr. D. [Calcutta-cum-Presidency Division.]
 Gomes, Mr. R. A. [Dacca Division.]
 Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra. [Faridpur.]
 Gupta, Mr. J. C. [Calcutta South Central.]
 Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan. [Bakarganj North-East.]
 Gurung, Mr. Dambar Singh. [Darjeeling.]

H

Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed. [Kishoreganj North.]
 Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Mr. [Thakurgaon.]
 Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand. [Murshidabad.] ✓
 *Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East.]
 Hassan Ali, Mr. [Dinajpur Central West.]
 Hatemally, Khan Sahib. [Pirojpur South.]
 Haywood, Mr. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
 Hodge, Mr. H. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
 Husan Ara Begum. [Calcutta (Muhammadan).]

I

Ilias Ali Molla, Mr. [24-Parganas Central.]
 Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E. [Muslim Chamber of Commerce.]

J

Jalan, Mr. Iswar Das. [Calcutta West.]
 Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur. [24-Parganas South.]
 Junabali Mia, Khan Sahib. [Chandpur East.]

K

Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Mr. [Cox's Bazar.]
 Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah Saiyid. [Murshidabad South-West.]
 Kennedy, Mr. I. G. [Indian Jute Mills Association.]
 Khairat Hossain, Mr. [Nilphamari.]
 Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. [Indian Chamber of Commerce.]
 Khuda Bukhsh, Mr. Md. [Berhampore.] ✓
 Khurram Khan Panee, Mr. [Tangail South.]
 Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur.]

L

Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra. [Rajshahi.]
 Lutfar Rahman, Khan Bahadur. [Jessore Sadar.]
 Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan... [Pabna East.]

M

Madar Bux, Mr. [Rajshahi Central.]
 *Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur. [Tippera North.]
 Mahammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Syed. [Pirojpur North.]
 Mahammad Owais, Mr. [Rangpur North.]
 Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr. [Malda North.]
 Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Midnapore Central.]
 Mahtab, Sir Uday Chand, K.C.I.E., Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan.
 [Burdwan Landholders.]
 Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Burdwan Division North Municipal.]
 Majhi, Mr. Nishapati. [Birbhum.]
 Majibar Rahman, Mr. [Noakhali Central.]
 Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati. [Hooghly-cum-Howrah Municipal.]
 Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-East.]
 Malik, Dr. A. M. [Water Transport Trade Union.]
 Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh. [Bankura West.]
 Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad. [Burdwan North-West.]
 Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari. [Burdwan North-West.]
 Mandal, The Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West.]
 Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central.]
 Maniruddin Akhand, Mr. [Rajshahi North.]
 ✓ Martuza Reza Chowdhury, Mr. [Jangipur.]
 *Masiuddin Ahmed (*alias* Raja Miah), Mr. [Manikganj West.]
 Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Taiyab. [Dacca Central.]
 Miles, Mr. C. W. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
 Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr. [Bogra North.]
 Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr. [Hooghly-cum-Howrah Municipal.]
 Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West.]
 Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad. [Calcutta University.]
 Mudassir Hossain, Khan Bahadur. [Birbhum.]
 Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr. [Feni.]
 Muhammad Idris, Mr. [Howrah.]
 Muhammad Ishaque, Mr. [Bogra South.]
 Muhammad Israil, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj South.]
 Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji. [Bakarganj West.]
 Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr. [Barrackpore Municipal.]
 Muhammad Rafique, Mr. [Calcutta North.]
 Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr. [Brahmanbaria North.]
 Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura.]
 Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan. [Hooghly North-East.]
 Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary. [Khulna.]
 Murarka, Mr. Basantlal. [Calcutta Central.]
 Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri-cum-Darjee-
 ling.]
 Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr. [Balurghat.]

N

✓ Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Cossimbazar. [Presidency Division
 Landholders.]
 *Nasarulla, Nawabzada, K. [Dacca Municipal.]
 Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar. [24-Parganas North-West.]
 Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]
 Nawab Ali, Mr. [Tippera West.]

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

vii

Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr. [Kurigram South.]
 Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Calcutta South.]
 Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E. [Calcutta Trades Association.]
 Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr. [Nadia East.]
 Nurazzaman, Khan Bahadur, M.B.E. [Bhola North.]
 Nurul Amin, The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur. [Mymensingh East.]

O

Osman Ali, Mr. [Narayanganj South.]
 Osman Gani, Khan Sahib. [Serajganj North.]

P

Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Kurigram North.]
 Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath. [Burdwan Central.]
 Pentony, Mr. L. R. [Anglo-Indian.]
 Pilkington, Mr. D. C. B. [Calcutta and Suburbs European.]
 Platel, Mr. R. E. [Anglo-Indian.]
 Poddar, Mr. Anandilal. [Marwari Association.]
 Powell, Mr. J. A. [Burdwan Division European.]
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra. [Nadia.]
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta. [Midnapore East.]

R

Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri-cum-Siliguri.]
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna. [Bankura East.]
 Ray, Mr. Nagendra Narayan. [Rangpur.]
 Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta. [Rangpur.]
 Ricketts, Mrs. E. M. [Anglo-Indian.]
 Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East.]
 Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Dinajpur.]
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [East Bengal Municipal.]
 Roy, Mr. Ram Hari. [Malda.]
 Roy, Mr. Rup Narayan. [Dinajpur.]

S

*Salim, Mr. S. A. [Narayanganj North.]
 Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna. [Jessore.]
 Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath. [Khulna.]
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan. [Mymensingh East.]
 Sawday, Mr. S. K. [Calcutta and Suburbs European.]
 Sen, Mrs. Ashalata. [Dacca (General).]
 Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath. [Colliery (Coal Mines).]
 Sen, Mr. Satindra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West.]
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie. [Chittagong.]
 Serajal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Tippera South.]
 Serajuddin Ahammad, Mr. [Midnapore.]
 Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Gaibandha North.]
 Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon.]
 Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr. [Kustia.]
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (*alias* Badsha Mia), Mr. [Faridpur East.]
 Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr. [Gopalganj.]
 Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md. [Patuakhali South.]
 Shamsul Huda, Maulana. [Mymensingh South.]
 Sharfuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur. [Mymensingh North.]
 Simpson, Mr. W. D. [Rajshahi Division European.]

Singhi, Mr. Narendra Singh. [Rajshahi Landholders.]
 Sinha, Mr. Arun Chandra. [Chittagong Landholders.]
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]
 Smart, Mr. J. N. [Dacca Division European.]
 Smith, Mr. A. B. [Presidency Division European.]
 Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G. [Darjeeling.]
 Stark, Mr. A. F. [Calcutta and Suburbs.]
 Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H. [Indian Tea Association.]
 Stokes, Mr. N. [Calcutta Trades Association.]
 Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal.]

T

Tafazzal Ali, Mr. [Tippera North-East.]
 Taylor, Mr. A. W. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
 Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan. [Faridpur.]
 Tofazzel Hossain, Mr. [Jhenidah.]

W

Walker, Mr. J. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
 Walton, Mr. A. C. [Chittagong Division (European).]
 Whitehead, Mr. R. B. [Indian Mining Association.]
 Wilkinson, Mr. G. [Hooghly-cum-Howrah.]
 Wilks, Mr. G. C. D. [Anglo-Indian.]
 Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E. [Calcutta and Suburbs European.]

Y

Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur. [Faridpur West.]

Z

*Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Mr. [Malda South.]
 Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly-cum-Serampore (Registered Factories).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Second Session.

Volume LXXI—No. 1.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 17th July, 1946, at 11 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur NURUL AMIN) in the Chair,
8 Hon'ble Ministers and 225 members.

Oaths.

The following members took the oath of allegiance to the Crown:—

- (1) Mr. R. O. Davidson,
- (2) Mr. I. F. Morris, O.B.E.,
- (3) Mr. K. R. Reynolds.

Obituary.

MR. SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen, before I proceed with the business of the House it is my melancholy duty to refer to the deaths of some of the eminent personalities of this country.

Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar who died on the 12th August, 1945, was a brilliant lawyer of wide reputation. He was the Law Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India and was the Vice-President of the Viceroy's Executive Council. He was the Leader of the Central Legislative Assembly. His death has taken away one of the brightest luminaries from the legal profession in India.

Dr. Sir U. N. Brahmachari passed away on the 6th February, 1946. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene of London. He was a former President of the Indian Science Congress and was associated with many Indian Scientific Societies. His specific cure for Kala-azar will remain an everlasting monument to his lifelong devotion to medical research. His death takes away an outstanding figure from the medical world.

Mr. Bhulabhai Desai breathed his last on the 6th of May, 1946. Mr. Desai was a great lawyer, an orator and a first-rate parliamentarian. He was the Leader of the Congress Party in the Central Legislative Assembly for nine years during the most trying times. He was an authority on Constitutional Law. By his death India has lost one of the most lovable statesmen of this country.

The death of the Right Hon'ble Srinibas Sastri occurred on the 17th April, 1946. As President of the Servants of India Society, he was an active worker for the Society's ideal. A member of the Imperial Legislative Council, he was closely associated with Mr. Montagu during the latter's tour in India in 1918. He represented India at the Imperial Conference in 1921 and at the League of Nations. He was appointed Privy Councillor and received the Freedom of the City of London in 1921. As a

representative of the Government of India he undertook a tour in Dominions in 1922. He was the High Commissioner for India in South Africa from 1927 to 1929. India has lost a superb orator and a political personality who was held in high esteem everywhere in India and abroad.

The death of Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin, C.I.E., took place on the 18th June, 1946. His father, the late Nawab Abdul Jabbar, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., Minister of Bhopal State, is well known throughout the province. Khan Bahadur M. A. Momin was the worthy son of a worthy father. He entered Government service as a Sub-Deputy Collector and rose up to the office of a Divisional Commissioner by sheer dint of merit. He was the first Indian Director of Land Records and the first Indian Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. He was also the first Commissioner of Wakfs, Bengal. After his retirement he joined politics and was returned to the Bengal Legislative Council which office he held till his death. He took keen interest in the economic and industrial development of the country. He possessed a strong sense of justice, courage of conviction, jovial and polite temperament and, above all, a great personality. He was loved and respected by members of all castes and creeds. His death has created a void which it will take a long time to fill up. Our only consolation is that he died full of years and full of honours and a grateful country mourns his loss.

The death of Mr. Puspajit Barma took place on the 11th August, 1945. He was a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly representing the Rangpur (General Scheduled Castes) Constituency. His death was premature. He commanded love and admiration from all who knew him personally.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alfazuddin Ahmed, a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly from the Midnapore (Muhammadan) Constituency, died of heart failure on the 13th October, 1945. He was elected to the Assembly in 1937. He was a retired Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and a member of the Senate of the Calcutta University and its different Boards of Studies till his death. He was a member of the Midnapore District Board and was closely associated with more than a dozen educational institutions. The poor people of the district of Midnapore, irrespective of caste and creed, have lost a benefactor in the death of the Khan Bahadur.

The death of Mr. J. N. Basu occurred on the 24th January, 1946, at the age of 74. He was a member of the Bengal Legislature for the last twenty years. Former President of the National Liberal Federation, Mr. Basu was a delegate to the Round Table Conference. He was a leading solicitor of the Calcutta High Court and a former President of the Incorporated Law Society, Calcutta. He took great interest in social welfare and uplift of the masses. He was a thorough gentleman in the truest sense of the term and was held in high esteem and reverence by all.

Mr. David Hendry, M.C., a member of the last Bengal Legislative Assembly, died in Scotland in the month of January, 1946. His sudden death came as a great shock to his many friends in Calcutta. He was a member of this Assembly once in 1937-38 and then in 1939-44. He was elected the Leader of the European Party in November, 1941, which office he held until illness forced him to leave India in 1944. It was no mean achievement that he succeeded in earning the respect and liking of all sections of the Legislature. He helped to enhance the dignity of the House by placing his debates on a higher plane.

The death of Sir Renwick Haddow took place on the 18th February, 1946. A leading figure in the commercial world, Sir Renwick was the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. He was the President of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in 1930-31. He was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council from 1929 to 1931, a member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1940-41

and a member of the Council of State from 1941 to 1943. He was actively associated with many social and charitable institutions in Calcutta and had many friends, both Indian and European to mourn his death.

Ladies and gentlemen, our sympathy goes down to their relatives and I am sure it is the desire of the House to convey our message of condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

I now request you, ladies and gentlemen, to signify your assent by rising in your seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Secretary will do the needful.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I nominate the following members of the Assembly to form a panel of four Chairmen for the ensuing session :—

- (1) Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy,
- (2) Mr. D. Gladding, C.I.E.,
- (3) Husan Ara Begum,
- (4) Mr. Fazlur Rahman (Dacca University).

Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Cloth Rationing Scheme.

* **1. Mr. N. T. STOKES:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department aware that the system of linking the consumer to a particular cloth ration shop is causing inconvenience to the public owing to the fact that the varieties and qualities of cloth in the different cloth ration shops differ considerably?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of introducing a cloth coupon system under which the consumer will be able to purchase his cloth ration from any cloth ration shop as is the case in other cloth rationing schemes?

(c) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements have been made so that a consumer can change his cloth ration shop if he is unable to obtain the varieties of cloth he requires?

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Abdul Gofran): (a) Consumers as such have not been individually linked to particular cloth ration shops. What has been done is that one or more food ration shops have been linked to specified cloth ration shops with the result that consumers attached to the former have to obtain supplies of ration cloth from these particular cloth shops. This system had to be introduced because cloth rationing had to be done in a great hurry. It is not quite popular as the consumers do not get the freedom of choice. The big shops are now taking more care to indent for the cloths their customers require.

(b) The matter is being examined in the Directorate of Rationing with a view to explore the possibilities of abolishing the linking system and giving the consumers freedom to register at cloth shops of their choice. It is however felt that this change cannot be made at the present moment and should be instituted, if at all, after the first series of cloth rationing folders is exhausted. This means that the existing system should continue till 30th September, 1946. The institution of a change of the kind contemplated will mean partial suspension of cloth rationing for a specified period during which fresh registration will be necessary.

(c) The question does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if this applies to the city of Calcutta or to other areas where cloth rationing has been introduced?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: This applies to the city of Calcutta.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is to be assumed from his answer (b) that a definite decision has been taken to abolish the linking system at the end of September?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: No such decision has as yet been arrived at.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if big shops include both European and Indian shops?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Yes.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: With reference to answer (a) will the Hon'ble Minister kindly say why the rationing system is not popular?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Because it is not convenient.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if 25 per cent. of the Muslims in Calcutta could not use their cloth coupons for want of supply of long cloth and *mulls* to the ration shops to which they were linked?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I cannot say whether the number is 25 per cent. but certainly there is a large number of people who cannot use their cloth folders because of certain difficulties and I will certainly look into this matter thoroughly.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the European establishments were provided with good cloth such as paplin and other things while Indian establishments are not in a position to supply such cloths?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (b) that the matter is being examined in the Directorate of Rationing, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what public bodies, if any, are being consulted in respect of the abolition of the linking system and the institution of some other system in its place?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he contemplates inviting the opinions of the various public bodies and consumers' representatives to consider what new system should take the place of the linking system at present in vogue?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I shall consider it.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when the cloth rationing system was instituted, assurances were given that the linking system would be of temporary duration?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I require notice.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: With reference to answer (b) that the institution of a change of the kind contemplated will mean partial suspension of cloth rationing for a specified period, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why should partial suspension be necessary?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Because we shall have to introduce new ration folders.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why the proposed system should not be introduced in the mofussil areas of Bengal as against Calcutta where people get some cloth at least?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I think that question does not arise at present.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: That question arises because in your answer you have said that the proposed system is not going to be introduced in the mofussil areas—

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly frame your question in a proper way and not in an argumentative manner?

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: No, Sir. I am not framing my question in an argumentative way.

Sir, in view of the answer the Hon'ble Minister has given, namely, that the system is not applicable to mofussil areas in Bengal, may I ask him this question as to why it is not being introduced in the mofussil areas?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I have nothing to add.

Mr. A. F. STARK: With reference to the last sentence of answer (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not possible to continue the existing system of cloth ration folders while registration for the new system is taking place?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: The old system will certainly continue till the new ration folders are introduced.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if arrangements are in progress from now, why there will be partial suspension of cloth rationing during the interim period?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I have already answered that question.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this partial suspension will not put the public into much inconvenience for the specified period?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of this specified period—whether it is two or three months or two or three weeks?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: That requires examination.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to the answer that "this means that the existing system should continue till 30th September, 1946" will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it means that after that period the whole question of the necessity as well as the system of rationing will be reviewed and reconsidered?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: Yes.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate also the possibility of abolition of the rationing system with reference to the stocks of cloth available in the country?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: I do not think it will be possible.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has got precise information relating to the stocks of cloth now held by Government in this country?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any preference is shown to the Consumers Co-operative Societies as far as the rationing of cloth is concerned as against other ration shops owned by private individuals?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: Will you please repeat your question?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I want to know whether any preference is shown to the Consumers Co-operative Societies which are run by Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: With respect to what?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: With respect to the rationing of cloth.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of giving preference to the Consumers Co-operative Societies?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE: With reference to the replies to question (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform us if the abolition of the Bengal Textile Association is also being considered by his Department?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: I would like to have notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to his answer to Mr. Banerjee's question that no preference is given to the Consumers Co-operative Societies run under official patronage, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that definite coercive measures have been used by certain consumers societies like the Multi-purpose Society of Kishoreganj in the matter of cloth rationing in order to extort share money from the consumers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: I shall enquire into the matter.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Has the Hon'ble Minister made enquiries into the question and complaints regarding the unsatisfactory condition of rationing as found in practice in different ration shops including co-operative societies under Government patronage?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: I have received no complaint.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Has the Hon'ble Minister not received any representations from the consumers in different districts, particularly in the Kishoreganj subdivision of Mymensingh, with regard to the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the system of rationing as practised by the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAN: No.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the Kishoreganj subdivision rationing of cloth is done very largely and primarily through the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society, for instance?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has replied to this question several times.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: There has been certain distortion of facts by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, may I get an answer to my question? My question is whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that in the Kishoreganj subdivision, for instance, the rationing of cloth is done through the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society.

Khan Sahib MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: On a point of order, Sir. This question refers to the rationing system introduced in the city of Calcutta. I want to know from the Hon'ble Speaker whether any question regarding co-operative societies in Kishoreganj or anywhere in Bengal can be raised within the scope of this question as it has been framed. If my honourable friend is so anxious he can bring in allegations or other things by separate questions. If he likes he can move an adjournment motion to discuss what is going on there. If he is not satisfied he can put a separate question not only himself but other people can also do that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, that is not the way in which a point of order can be raised. He is making a speech.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, what is his point of order?

Khan Sahib MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I am making my submission. I have not yet finished. My submission is that questions regarding co-operative societies in Kishoreganj are not allowable within the framework of this question.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, one submission I have got to make. On the face of the question there is nothing about Calcutta. It is of a general character, because there is no mention in the question that it relates only to Calcutta.

(Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you speaking on the point of order raised?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes. May I invite your attention to this? My friend Mr. Sibnath Banerjee was allowed to put a question whether preference was shown to co-operative societies run under Government patronage in respect of rationing of cloth and the Hon'ble Minister said "No". Arising out of the Hon'ble Minister's answer given and the question put by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, I am entitled to put my supplementary question illustrating whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that in the subdivision of Kishoreganj a multi-purpose co-operative society in fact gets Government patronage regarding the rationing of cloth. I believe the honourable member who has raised this point of order is himself aware of this thing, because he is an important member of that multi-purpose co-operative society—he is one of the directors. So I submit that

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: In this question where is the mention of Calcutta? Mr. Stokes has asked three questions (a), (b) and (c) and I do not find anywhere the name of Calcutta being mentioned.

Khan Sahib MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: A Barrister of Mr. Gupta's eminence is expected to find it by implication. Everything refers to Calcutta.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a very simple question. In connection with the reply to a question the Hon'ble Minister made certain references to cloth rationing in areas besides Calcutta. So I think the point of order raised by Khan Sahib Muhammad Israil does not apply in this case.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether giving effect to suggestion (c) in the question would involve a partial break-down of the rationing system?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Increase of sugar ration per capita per week.

***2. Mr. F. F. M. FERGUSON:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

- (1) whether he is aware that the minimum sugar ration considered necessary by nutritional experts is 10 ounces per head per week;
- (2) the reasons for the fact that the scale of sugar ration in Bengal is lower than in force in other parts of India;
- (3) what action has been taken by Government—
 - (a) to secure an increase in the quota of sugar imports into Bengal, and
 - (b) to increase sugar production in Bengal; and
- (4) whether Government have considered the desirability of increasing the sugar ration to at least 10 ounces per head per week?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: (1) Yes.

(2) The entire production of sugar in India is under the control of the Government of India who allocate available supplies amongst the various Provinces. The present reduced Provincial quota does not permit of the issue of supplies of sugar on a scale higher than that now in force; a copy of a statement explaining the present position given to the Press in April last is laid on the table for information.

(3) (a) The strongest representations have been made to the Government of India for the restoration of the original quota or for the reduction of the cut made from 13 per cent. to 5 per cent.

(b) The Government are aware that it is vitally important that sugar production should be increased in Bengal. To this end they have brought into force the Bengal Gur, Sugar and Sugar Products (Manufacture and Movements) Control Order, 1945, and have taken the following further measures designed to increase production:—

- (i) The zoning of sugar factory areas with the object of increasing the supply of sugarcane to factories. This measure involves—
 - (a) a prohibition on the production of *gur* within the zone till the middle of December designed to conserve immature sugarcane; and
 - (b) a prohibition on the export of sugarcane and *gur* from the zone throughout the year.

- (ii) The fixation of statutory minimum prices for sugarcane delivered to Sugar Factories. The minimum prices are 3 annas per maund higher than the price paid by sugar factories in the United Provinces and Bihar.
 - (iii) The giving of assistance to sugar factories by way of the allotment of motor vehicles, and special supplies of fuel for tractors used in sugarcane plantation.
 - (iv) The distribution of sugarcane cuttings and manures to growers in sugar factory areas.
 - (v) The organisation of sugarcane research and seed multiplication centres by the Agriculture Department.
 - (vi) The development of the road system in sugar factory areas.
- (4) The Government are aware that the present sugar ration both urban and rural is inadequate and they would be only too ready to increase the ration to the level proposed by the honourable member if and when assurances are forthcoming from the Government of India that an allocation adequate for this purpose would be made.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (2) of starred question No. 2.

HANDOUT ISSUED AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 1, 1946, ON THE SUGAR POSITION IN BENGAL.

The recent decision of the Government of India, reached on a re-examination of revised figures of production, to impose the substantial cut of 13 per cent. on quotas of sugar allotted to Provinces for the current sugar year (December, 1945, to November, 1946) means that Bengal's original allotment of 149,000 tons has been reduced to 129,630 tons. Therefore, necessary adjustments must be made immediately to cut down drastically consumption in the Province. Bengal's minimum requirements of sugar during the current year are estimated by Government at 200,000 tons. This figure has been reached after taking into account figures of consumption before the war, giving due weight to altered economic conditions consequent on the concentration of military personnel and large-scale industries, and the fact that departments of the Provincial and Central Governments and large employers have been compelled to introduce a systematic distribution of rations to employees resident in urban and rural areas, with the result that many persons previously resident in rural areas are now entitled to regular supplies of sugar, which means that generally speaking the "Sugar character" of the population has changed.

The quota originally allotted to Bengal during 1945-46 was, however, only 139,000 tons, a supplementary allotment of 10,000 tons being made in December, 1945. The quotas during the three years immediately preceding were 141,800 tons, 145,800 tons and 132,160 tons respectively.

The Directorate of Supply is responsible for the procurement of sugar and for provincial distribution in bulk. Sugar is distributed in overall rationed towns through the Directorate of Rationing and in other urban and rural areas through the Directorate of District Distribution. Out of the original quota of 139,000 tons, provision was made for 70,720 tons for the requirements of statutorily rationed towns (the share of Greater Calcutta being over 60,000 tons) on the scale of 8 oz. per head per week, allowance being made for certain supplies to establishments. A total of 60,620 tons was earmarked for other urban and rural areas for distribution in urban areas on a scale of 1½ lbs. per head per month, besides additional allotments varying from 1¼ oz. to 4 oz. per head per month according to the size and nature of the town for the use of establishments, while rural areas were given only 2 oz. per head per month. A small quantity was retained by the Directorate of Supply for the requirements of large employers and as provincial reserve.

It will be appreciated that since four months of the sugar year have already elapsed, the economy to be effected to ensure that the Province sees its way through till the end of November must necessarily exceed substantially 13 per cent. of existing scales since consumption was permitted during the first four months in the expectation of a minimum quota of 149,000 tons.

The Government of Bengal has given the most anxious consideration to the question of reducing the cut in the scale of rations to the minimum possible consistent with the attenuated supplies available and have been reluctantly compelled to decide that the scale of rations in Greater Calcutta and other overall rationed towns in the Province should be lowered to 6 oz. per head per week with effect from April 8, 1946, and that allotments to establishments should be reduced by 20 per cent. Manufacturers of drugs will, however, be exempted from this cut. While Government realise that the proposed ration is unduly low, the supplies likely to be available to the Province during the rest of the year will not admit of a continuance of the present scale of 8 oz. per head per week.

Outlying non-rationed urban areas will be given supplies on a scale of 6 oz. per head per week in the case of district and subdivisional headquarters and towns with a population of 10,000 or more, while other towns will get only 4 oz. per head per week. No additional supplies will be made available for the requirements of establishments which must be limited to the difference between the sub-quotas allotted to the town on the revised scale and the actual offtake.

Supplies to rural areas will continue to be limited as hitherto to the scale of 2 oz. per head per month as it is not considered possible or desirable that this should be reduced any further. Small establishments in rural areas will receive supplies up to 10 per cent. of the sub-quota on the above basis.

With a view to conserving stocks and avoiding possible waste, it has also been decided that the policy now in force in overall rationed towns to refuse supplies for religious festivals, marriages and other ceremonies will be extended to other areas.

Although the Government of Bengal have made further representation to the Government of India to restore the original quota of 149,000 tons or in any case to reduce the proposed cut from 13 per cent. to 5 per cent. it will clearly be imprudent to postpone the introduction of revised scales of rations as delay, involving as it does consumption at a level higher than anticipated supplies would justify, would make even more drastic reduction inevitable. The Government of Bengal are, however, prepared to give the assurance that the question of restoring existing scales of rations and supplies to establishments will be examined if the Government of India find it possible, after obtaining more promising figures of production or by effecting adjustments elsewhere, to exempt Bengal from the "axe" or to reduce the severity of the cut.

It will be recalled that the scale in Greater Calcutta was 12 oz. per head per week from August 15, 1944, to April 7, 1945, and that supplies to establishments were on a liberal scale when the Provincial quota was 145,800 tons in 1943-44 and 141,800 tons in 1944-45.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (3) (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether any increase in production has been made since the Bengal *Gur*, Sugar and Sugar Products (Manufacture and Movements) Control Order, 1945, has been introduced?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: As far as I am aware, formerly about 13,000 tons used to be produced here in Bengal, but now the quantity produced is about 20,000 tons.

Mr. J. N. SMART: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the fact that the scale of sugar rationing in Bengal is lower than

that in force in other parts of India? In his answer he does not indicate the reason.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Because the supply is inadequate and therefore the quantity has been reduced.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Bombay has higher scale of ration than Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Ask the Government of India.

Mr. DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Has the Hon'ble Minister been pleased to ascertain from the industry what increased production of sugar they expect as a result of the steps that the Hon'ble Minister has detailed in his answer to the question?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: That is estimated increase.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: With reference to answer (3)(b) মাননীয় মহী মহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি বাংলায় চিনি উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকরে এখন পর্যন্ত গভর্ণমেন্ট পক্ষ থেকে কি কি কাজ করা হয়েছে? কোন নতুন কারখানা তাঁহারা নিজেরা স্থাপন করেছেন কি না বা অন্যকে স্থাপন করতে সাহায্য করেছেন কি না অথবা নতুন কারখানা স্থাপন করার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টের ইচ্ছা আছে কি না বা অন্যকে এবিষয় সাহায্য করার গভর্ণমেন্টের ইচ্ছা আছে কি না?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I would like to have notice.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: মাননীয় মহী-মহোদয় জানান কি এই গুড control orderএর জন্য চাষীরা আর্থের চাপ বন্ধ করে দিয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মহী-মহাশয় বলবেন কি চিনির যে রকম বেগন আছে তাতে অনেকে চিনি পাচ্ছে না ইহার উপর মফঃস্বলে গুড উৎপাদন বন্ধ করে দিয়ে আমাদের নিষ্টে বাবার পথ বন্ধ হয়েছে কি না?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I have already answered that. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Bengal *Gur*, Sugar and Sugar Products (Manufacture and Movements) Control Order, 1945, is working to the detriment of the interests of the cultivators and in view of that whether he will be prepared to encourage consumption of home-made *gur* in place of sugar for all persons who require increased quantity of sugar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: That is receiving our due consideration.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister is not perfectly audible. I would therefore request him through you, Sir, to go to the microphone or to be more audible.

Mr. SPEAKER: He said that the matter was under consideration.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: On a point of order, Sir. When a question is put and the answer is given, the members are entitled to hear the Hon'ble Minister. So it is better for the Hon'ble Minister to go to the microphone or to speak a little louder.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I think I was quite audible.

Mr. D. CLADDING: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether he personally has made any representation to the Government of India with reference to part (3)(a) of his reply?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: No.

Mr. D. CLADDING: Has any representation been made to the Government of India since this Ministry came into office?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN:: No.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the last representation was made and what was the reply from the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us since when the zoning of sugar factory areas was introduced and by introducing that measure what definite increase resulted in the production of sugarcane?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I have already said that there has been an increase of about 7,000 tons.

Mr. DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what manures he has arranged to distribute among growers and what quantity, and whether he considers that the quantity that he has arranged for is quite sufficient for the purposes of growing more sugarcane?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I would request the honourable member to refer to the Agriculture Department.

Mr. ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have examined the possibility of increasing the output of sugar in the country by tapping palm trees?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: I shall consider the question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the quantity of supply made in the rural area is much less than the quantity that is supplied to the urban area in proportion?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Yes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of increasing the quantity of supply in rural areas?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Yes.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Supersession of Midnapore District Board.

1. Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

- (a) for how long the Midnapore District Board has been under supersession;
- (b) whether Government contemplate holding the election of the District Board; and
- (c) if so, when?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: (a) The Board has not been under supersession.

(b) Yes.

(c) Early in 1947.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Midnapore District Board is functioning normally at the present moment?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Yes, and the meetings are being held normally.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when the Midnapore District Board was constituted?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Board was under suspension recently?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: No.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by the answer (c) that election will be held early in 1947? Is it in January, February or March?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Sometime during the winter of 1947—will be about January.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the election was due?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: মাননীয় মহা মহোদয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি করে Local Board থেকে District Board-এ member পাঠান হয়েছিল বা পাঠান হয়েছিল কি না? এবং পাঠান হয়েছিল তাদের নাম এখনও publish হয় নাই কেন? হয়ে না থাকবে তা খবর বকলে প্রকাশিত হয় নাই কেন?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Delegates were elected to the District Board through the Local Board. I ask for notice with regard to the other matter.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the reasons for which the election to the District Board of Midnapore was not held when due?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: For delimitation of constituencies.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of issuing a statement on the election of the Midnapore District Board—when it was held, how many years it has not been held and when it is going to be held?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: No statement can be issued but replies can be given to honourable members.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when the delimitation of constituencies was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I ask for notice.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, I had given notice of an adjournment motion and I have your consent which I beg to move for leave of the House. The motion runs thus:

This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the acute distress that has come to prevail in the different parts of Bengal owing to the failure of the Government of Bengal to reduce the abnormal high prices and to maintain adequate supply of rice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The adjournment motion put by Mr. Sinha runs thus: This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the acute distress that has come to prevail in the different parts of Bengal owing to the failure of the Government of Bengal to reduce the abnormal high prices and to maintain adequate supply of rice.

Is there any objection?

(There was no objection.)

Ladies and gentlemen, in view of the very important nature of our business today and the peculiar circumstances in which it has been brought about—

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will you fix a date?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. In fixing a date I have got to make some observation.

In view of the very important nature of our business today and the peculiar circumstances in which it has been brought about and specially in consideration of the fact that both the sides of the House have agreed that the adjournment motion will be taken up on a subsequent date, I waive urgency and fix 5 p.m. on 25th July for this motion, but I take this unusual step without creating any precedent for the future. In my opinion it is a very dangerous practice not to take up the adjournment motion on the very day it is moved. The essence of the adjournment motion is that the matter sought to be brought before the House is so urgent that it cannot wait and it is more important than the business fixed on the Order Paper for the day. If it appears that the adjournment motion is not so important as to take the place of the business on the Order Paper for the day, the adjournment motion must necessarily fail and in such circumstances the Speaker, who decides the relative importance of the matter, would refuse his consent although the motion may be otherwise admissible. I should also draw the attention of the House that during Budget Session when members will get ample opportunities to ventilate their grievances through cut motions and through resolutions which would be moved on non-official days, the Chair shall see that the day to day business of the House is not interfered with unless the Chair is satisfied that a grave situation has arisen which must be disposed of at once and which brooks no delay.

Message from the Governor.

Mr. SPEAKER: As desired by His Excellency the Governor I read out his message:—

"I have summoned this session of the Assembly by the direction of His Excellency the Viceroy and in pursuance of paragraph 21 of the statement of 16th May, 1946, by the Cabinet Delegation and the Viceroy for the purpose of enabling you to elect the representatives of Bengal to the Constituent Assembly for the framing of a new constitution for India.

My request to you is that you will give your earnest consideration to this message forthwith and that you will then adjourn for the purpose of proceeding immediately to the election of your representatives.

For the better conduct of the election I have prepared in accordance with the proposal contained in the abovementioned statement the instructions communicated to you in the circular letter of the Returning Officer, dated the 18th June, 1946, as modified in his circular letter, dated the 28th June, 1946, and the additional instructions for the actual conduct of the elections which are now before you."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg to move that this House do now take into consideration the matter contained in the message from His Excellency the Governor and that the House do now decide that the election of representatives from Bengal to the Constituent Assembly be now carried out as requested in that message.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any objection?

(After a pause.)

The motion is carried.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 11-53 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 24th July, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled
under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 24th July 1946, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 213 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Milk supply position of Calcutta.

***3. Mr. J. N. SMART:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries be pleased to state—

- (a) whether he is aware that in a Report on the Survey of the Milk Supply position of Calcutta carried out by two officers of the Directorate of Agriculture and published in June, 1945, it is stated that the milk supply position of Calcutta is heading for a crisis and immediate action is necessary; and
- (b) what immediate action has been taken to give effect to the recommendations in this report and in particular the recommendations with regard to—
 - (i) licensing of producers and distributors of milk and inspection of their premises,
 - (ii) sale of milk and milk-products of standard qualities only and prohibition of hawking,
 - (iii) fixing of rates of milk and milk-products,
 - (iv) establishment of dairy cattle salvage farms outside Calcutta,
 - (v) establishment of a Milk Council, and
 - (vi) prohibition of the utilisation of milk for the manufacture of sweets in Calcutta?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE, FORESTS and FISHERIES (the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Hossain): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) to (iii) and (v) These matters are linked up with the long-term policy advocated in the Report, which is still under consideration.

(iv) A scheme has been prepared and is under consideration.

(vi) This is not considered feasible in the absence of a ready market for the liquid milk which will be rendered surplus by such a prohibitory order.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain, in view of the statement that the milk supply position of Calcutta is heading for a crisis and immediate action is necessary—a statement made in June, 1945—why the matter is still under consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: I have nothing further to add. This is a matter of long-term policy. It is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (b) (iv), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this scheme was prepared and how long it has been under consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: It is not a scheme. The report was submitted by two officers of the Agriculture Department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when this report was received?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Some time ago this report was submitted.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the date?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: I require notice.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see the desirability of circulating the report amongst members in consideration of the importance of the report?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: I will take the matter into consideration.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is an acute shortage of milk in Calcutta, particularly among the middle class people, and also that many infants and children are unable to obtain milk?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: There is a shortage.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the quantity of milk required for the people of Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: I would like to have notice.

Mr. J. N. SMART: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how soon will this consideration be completed and when may we hope for action to follow?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: I have already stated that the matter is under consideration.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the items (ii) and (iii) of (b) are linked up with the long-term policy, as mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not in order. I disallow this.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the difficulty in procuring milk and the uncontrolled rates of milk, what immediate action Government has taken to control the prices of milk in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: No immediate remedy is possible in the matter.

Dr. A. M. MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplates to take any immediate action pending the consideration of the long-term policy to control pure milk and the rates of milk?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: As an immediate measure Government have tried to facilitate the import of milch cattle from the Punjab and U. P. and they have provided veterinary dispensaries in the area of the Corporation and in three places they have arranged for artificial insemination and other things.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the milk position in the city of Calcutta will improve and people will get more milk?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: After the high prices of cattle, fodder, etc., are brought down to the normal level, we can expect the price of milk to fall and the supply of milk to improve.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state why even the inspection of premises has to be linked up with the long-term policy?

The Hon'ble Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a great feeling against the controlling system as controlling a thing invariably raises the price of the article?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Enquiry regarding Short-notice Questions tabled by Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, আমি দুইটা short notice question দিচ্ছিলাম। তার একটা ছিল food situation ও আসন্ন দৃতিক সংকে আর একটা ছিল বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট কর্তৃক Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation দ্বারা করা সংকে এই দুটা notice দেওয়া হয়েছিল গত ১৭ই তারিখে ৪/৫ দিন পূর্বে। আজ ২৪শে জুলাই, আজ ও আশা প্রমুখের উদ্ভব দেওয়া হয় নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: We have referred the matters to the respective departments and have not received replies. If you have anything further to say kindly see me in my chamber.

Enquiry regarding adjournment motions.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion to discuss a definite matter of urgent importance, *viz.*, the situation that has arisen as a result of the notification under the Land Acquisition Act for acquisition of land for the proposed ship canal from Diamond Harbour to Kidderpore. I have been informed that consent has been refused.

Sir, I do not know whether you have considered one very important aspect of the matter, *viz.*, the urgent matter that, as a result of the notification, people have become panic-stricken because all the transactions in land have stopped.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. I have been very patient in listening to the honourable member. Probably the honourable member is new and that is the reason why he does not know it. In case of an adjournment motion in which consent is refused, the adjournment motion is not read out nor can that matter be ventilated on the floor of the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: He wants to know why consent has been refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: He cannot know.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: He can do it.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion in order to adjourn the business of the House to discuss the failure of the Chief Minister to release all the political prisoners. I find that you have refused consent to that motion, but I should like to know the reasons why, as this is a very important and urgent matter which once I raised before and which was turned down by Mr. Nausher Ali last time. Again I have raised this very important matter, but I find that again consent has been refused. As you will find—

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Again on a point of order, Sir. Certainly, Sir, any such statement cannot be backed by a speech which is equivalent to placing argument before the House.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: I shall certainly accept the ruling of the Speaker it certainly not that of the Chief Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Accepting, Mr. Speaker, Sir,—

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Basu, when the Speaker is on his legs, I think you ought to resume your seat. Will you kindly take your seat?

Notices of some adjournment motions were received mostly with reference to political prisoners. On the 17th of July last notice of such an adjournment motion was received along with other notices on other matters. The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition was consulted and he gave preference to an adjournment motion on some other subject and, therefore, consent was given to that adjournment motion and a date has been fixed to discuss that motion to-morrow. This is one of the reasons. The other is that on similar subjects, *i.e.*, on the release of political prisoners and on the matter just referred to by the honourable member here notices of two resolutions have been received and those resolutions have been admitted. Therefore consent has been refused to the adjournment motions in question under the rules.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion this morning. May I know why consent has been refused?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar's subject does not concern the Provincial Government at all. Therefore consent has been refused.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, may I invite your attention to one point? I did not raise a subject which does not concern the Government of Bengal. I raised precisely that aspect of a subject which concerns the Government of Bengal and the people of Bengal, and, therefore, I would like to invite your attention to this fact that a certain situation has arisen in the Province as a sequel to which something has happened—

Mr. SPEAKER: I will explain just now. Any matter that is not within the purview of provincial responsibility may be brought in there by laborious argument, but my business is to see that the subject is specifically a subject for the Provincial Government. Therefore, as it does not concern the Provincial Government, consent has been refused.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, accepting your ruling and in pursuance to your ruling I take it that a matter which concerns the Provincial Government cannot be ruled out and you do not intend to rule out a subject which concerns the Provincial Government. Tranquillity within the Province—a state of affairs which threatens the peace within the Province is certainly a matter which concerns the Provincial Government. Even if arising out of the acts of the omission or commission of the Central Government, a certain situation has arisen within the Province which affects the tranquillity of the Province, if this situation affects public life as well as Government business, then, I submit that it gives rise to an occasion for the Provincial Government as well as this House to consider as to what should be done in that behalf. It is always within the competence of the Provincial Government to consider the situation arising in Bengal and to make representations in that behalf, if necessary, to the Government of India or to take such steps as would lie within the competence of the Government of Bengal. It is far from my intention to introduce any point which is not within the competence of the Government of Bengal but lies within the jurisdiction of the Government of India; but it is my

intention to introduce and to press for your consideration and allow this House to consider aspects which certainly affect very materially and seriously the life of this Province. In fact, if we default in giving that consideration which is due, a more grave situation may arise which will affect the very peace and tranquillity of the Province itself. That is a responsibility of the Home Department and of the entire Government of Bengal. The life of the Province is affected in that connection. Moreover, the labour question is involved here and Labour is within the concurrent jurisdiction both of the Central Government and of the Provincial Government. To illustrate my point, Sir, with one instance—

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you be very brief?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, I will be as brief as the circumstances of the case permit. To give you one illustration, take the case of railways which run all over the country. In respect of railway labour, or certain things happening in railways such as, robberies taking place in some parts of Bengal, would it not be a concern of the Bengal Government to consider? Although railways are the concern of the Government of India, such matters would certainly fall within the competence of the Government of Bengal to give thought to and consider what should be the remedial measures. I introduced in my motion, Sir, if you will be pleased to read it over again, only that aspect for consideration, namely, the sequel and consequences which fall within the competence of the Government of Bengal. It is a very serious matter indeed and I would ask for your very careful reconsideration, so that on reconsideration you may be pleased to give your ruling as to whether the situation arising in Bengal affecting the life of the people as well as the business of Government does or does not lie within the competence of this House to consider in a motion of adjournment. That is my submission.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I made myself sufficiently clear on this point. Any matter that does not concern the Provincial Government may be brought in by this sort of argument. An illustration has been cited by the honourable member regarding railway dacoities and all that. There the Provincial Government has the responsibility of maintaining police on the railway lines. Therefore they are responsible to that extent, but here, so far as the Posts and Telegraphs Department are concerned, the Provincial Government does not owe any responsibility of any sort.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: You will be pleased to notice, Sir, that the explanation that you gave does not mention as to why my motion was ruled out. I have not understood under what provision or rule you have given your ruling. Will you please be good enough to state that?

Mr. SPEAKER: If the honourable member sees me in my Chamber I will show him the rule.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Sir, this is a very important matter. At the moment thousands of people outside the Assembly are demanding the release of political prisoners and they want to know what is preventing the Ministry from releasing the political prisoners. If the Ministry want help here are thousands of people both Hindus and Muslims who will no doubt stand by the Ministry against the bureaucracy to help in the release of the political prisoners. Therefore I hope you will be good enough to explain under what provision you have ruled out my motion. This is the second time that it has happened. Even now, Sir, you can hear people shouting for the release of political prisoners who for the last 12 to 16 years have been in prisons. The Chief Minister, in spite of what he has said to the press and the press correspondents, has not been able to release them—we do not know why. Whether he is unable to do so on account of some objection from some quarter whether it be the Europeans or somebody else or he himself does not want to release them we cannot understand. Therefore,

I think that even now at this stage my motion requires your reconsideration and you can fix any date for discussion of this motion. I do not want you to fix the date immediately, but it can be fixed after the budget speech is made.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems that the honourable member is not prepared to have the patience of seeing me in my Chamber. But in any case I refer him to rule 98, sub-rule (iv) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. It runs as follows:—

“The motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration, or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given”.

Not only has a notice been given on this matter in the shape of a resolution but that resolution has been admitted and a date has already been fixed for it, viz., the 9th of August, which is a non-official day.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would in this connection invite your attention to rule 95 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules where there is this provision: with your consent and the consent of the Minister to whose department the motion relates, I can move it as a special motion before this House. May I ask you, Sir, to consider whether you will be pleased to give your consent and also let the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether he is prepared to give his consent to this motion to be moved as a special motion on the 26th, if possible, in pursuance of the provisions of rule 95 of the Assembly Procedure Rules.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall consider this point later on.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: May I know what the Hon'ble Minister has to say in the matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will consider the matter first and then I will refer it to the Minister concerned.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: On a point of order, Sir. You have said that the adjournment motion with regard to the acquisition of land for the proposed ship canal of which Mr. Bhandari has given notice has been admitted as a resolution, but he does not know that.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not his resolution but another member's.

Demonstration outside the Chamber regarding Release of Political Prisoners.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of people outside the premises and within the premises are demanding the release of political prisoners. I want to know what the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has got to say with regard to their demand.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, this is not the proper time to raise this matter. I would ask you to wait for I anticipate that this point will be raised during the Budget discussion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: But it can't wait. There are a large number of students, Hindus and Mussalmans outside, demanding the release of political prisoners. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister must give a reply just now. We can't wait any longer.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, you have given your ruling on the motion for adjournment of Mr. Bose. With due respect I submit to your ruling; but there is a tense situation outside this hall. It has been pointed out by my friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, that there is a large demonstration outside. I do not know if the Chief Minister

went out to see the demonstration. The demonstration has been organised, I understand, by all the political organisations of this province including the Muslim League. (Cries of "No, No" from the Muslim League benches.) I am not speaking of the reactionary elements which pass in the name of the Muslim League in this House, I am speaking of the Muslim masses. I repeat that that demonstration has been organised by almost all the political organisations of the province—(Cries of "Question" from the Muslim League benches.) You can question till the Doomsday. **Mr. Speaker**, in that demonstration there are Hindus and Muslims—

Mr. SPEAKER: May I interrupt you for a second? Is the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition going to deliver a speech here or to refer to some point? If it is a point of order, I think the matter may be disposed of very soon.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Sir, I am not trying to deliver a speech, but I am trying to make an appeal to the Chief Minister. It is impossible to consider the budget in an atmosphere of demonstration. I appeal to him to go to the crowd; I appeal to him first to make a statement here as to what he proposes to do with regard to these political prisoners. And I would also invite him to address the crowd outside. If his statement here is satisfactory we ourselves will go and appeal to the crowd to disperse. Therefore, Sir, before you take up the business of the day I would appeal to the Chief Minister to make a statement as to what the Government proposes to do about the release of political prisoners.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as I am concerned, the Speaker is helpless in this matter because if any reply is wanted the matter ought to have been brought to my notice earlier so that I might have consulted the Leader of the House. I do not know what the Leader of the House wants to do in the matter, but so far as I am concerned I am helpless in the matter.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, we are appealing to him through you, because we have to appeal through you.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as it has been the practice in a matter like this, when the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition brings up a problem before the House, you may be pleased to ask the Leader of the House to make a statement and he will certainly be pleased to make one so that we may all help him in the situation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the convention is that a previous notice has to be given to the Speaker if such a matter has got to be discussed in the House.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, here in a situation, which has just arisen, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, with your permission, has asked the Leader of the House if he will be pleased to make a statement. I respectfully submit that you may leave it to the Leader of the House to choose to make a statement and, as a matter of fact, he was on his legs already.

Mr. SPEAKER: If he wishes to make a statement I won't stand in the way.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I am prepared to make a statement but let it be clearly understood that this statement is not made with a view to open a discussion. I would not be prepared to participate in a discussion on this subject. I am aware of the demonstration which is taking place outside. Who are responsible for it and how many parties have joined it and what is the composition of the demonstration I am not prepared to make a statement upon. But I do want to tell the honourable members for the sake of the dignity of this House and their own prestige

and the fact that the business of Government has to be carried on in a peaceful and calm atmosphere in which the honourable members may be in a position to exercise their judgment without any influence from outside, that these demonstrations will not carry us anywhere at all: they will not have the slightest effect on the policy of release or detention. It will neither expedite consideration nor will it retard it. I have already released all the detenus and some convicted prisoners some of whom even were involved in murder cases. In many cases, if not in all, I have withdrawn all restrictive orders. I am examining the cases of the other prisoners and have to consider various aspects before I can come to a final decision. I can only say that I am examining the cases with as much sympathy as the changing political conditions allow. I hope to be able to pass orders within a short time. I request the honourable members for patience.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, just one word. I do not want to enter into a debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope this will not be a discussion.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: This is not going to be a discussion. I know my limitations.

The Secretary of the Assembly now reports that it is impossible to prevent boys from getting into the Chamber. I only ask you and the Chief Minister to consider that situation and do what you think best in the circumstances.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: If the Chief Minister will go and speak to the persons who have assembled there on such an important matter, I am prepared to help the situation so that the persons who have come may go back peacefully.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is a very unfortunate state of affairs that the sacred precincts of this building should have been invaded by any one. As I have said before, it is a challenge, if I may say so, to the dignity of this House, not to that of Government. Those persons, if there are any here, who are responsible for the demonstration outside may well exercise their influence in seeing that the demonstrators do not invade the building. As far as I am concerned, Sir, I do not propose to turn myself at the present moment into a demagogue and go and make a speech to them, but I shall welcome exchange of views with a deputation of the people who have come outside.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: There have been any number of deputations before.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I shall be prepared to welcome now a deputation from those who have gathered outside and I hope that what I shall tell them will be satisfactory enough for them to go and tell the demonstrators outside to disperse and leave us to conduct our work in peace. (Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: What time?) I am prepared to meet them now.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, the Chief Minister has referred to the dignity of the House. He forgets that the Muslim League at one time organised a demonstration of two lakhs of people within the precincts of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition have gone out to meet a deputation.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: The last big demonstration referred to passed outside the gate but this is perhaps for the first time that demonstration is taking place within the compound of the building.

Oath.

The following member took the oath of allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. George Mason Mackinlay.

BUDGET FOR 1946-47.**Finance Minister's Statement.**

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Budget for the year 1946-47.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House are both away from the House. Let us wait till their return.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The presentation of the Budget can wait till the return of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think in the present circumstances it is necessary. You have got the printed speech.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: On a point of order. The statement that is being read by the Hon'ble Minister has not been circulated.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: It had never been circulated.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Honourable members must realise that this statement contains Budget proposals and this cannot therefore be circulated in advance. As soon as the Budget is presented, copies will be available to members. There are important statements of Government policy in it.

More than three months of the year to which these estimates relate have already passed. As the House is aware, the Section 93 administration which had been ushered into existence by a somewhat extraordinary set of circumstances, came to an end on the 24th April last and the reins of office were once more assumed by the elected representatives of the people. Thereafter, the Ministry required some time to review the financial position and formulate its Budget proposals. It was obviously impossible in these circumstances to comply with the normal procedure under which the Budget is required to be presented to the Legislature before the commencement of the year to which it relates; and the Governor has been pleased, after consultation with you, Sir, to make an *ad hoc* rule to validate the delayed presentation of the estimates for the current year.

Honourable members will observe that there has been a change in the form of the estimates. In the first place, the customary Revised Estimates of the preceding year have been replaced by "actuals" since these actuals are now to hand. Secondly, in order to furnish honourable members with an indication of the amount of expenditure incurred this year during the Section 93 administration, that is to say, between the 1st and the 24th of April, expenditure estimates have been exhibited in three columns instead of in one, as has been the usual practice. Reading from the right, we have first a column in which is shown "Actual Expenditure from 1st April, 1946, to 24th April, 1946"; next we have a column showing "Estimated Expenditure from 25th April, 1946, to 31st March, 1947"; and finally there is a column in which has been entered the aggregate of the other two columns, representing the Estimated Expenditure for the whole year. The figures in the first column have been furnished by the Accountant-General who has compiled them from his account registers as accurately as possible. He has, however, made it clear that since his accounts are compiled for complete months, the figures in question are, in many cases, based on rough calculations with no pretensions to meticulous accuracy.

So much for the changes in the form of the estimates. In regard to substance, the present estimates mark a noticeable departure from the Budgets of previous years. For the first time in her long and troublous history the Province has been enabled, through the co-operation and assistance of the Centre, to embark upon a comprehensive and carefully thought out programme of development in every branch of nation-building activity, untrammelled by paucity of resources. Hopelessly incapacitated by the acute financial stringency which has been her lot from the time of the iniquitous Meston Award, the Province has never been in a position to properly organise and develop her nation-building activities. Such provisions as could be made for this purpose from time to time were generally in the nature of temporary expedients to meet the pressing needs of the moment and were seldom sufficiently comprehensive to make any substantial impression on the accumulated deficiency of years. Even these meagre efforts had to be suspended in a large measure on the outbreak of hostilities on the Eastern Front. As the then Finance Minister of the Province put it pithily, "Nation-saving" had to take the place of "Nation-building". The Famine which followed left little scope for anything beyond measures of immediate relief. Although the Province is still a long way from recovery from the shattering impact of the War and the Famine, we have now, for the first time, been enabled to bend our energies to the supremely important task of raising the economic standard and increasing the general well-being of the people. The current year's cost of Development Projects included in the present estimates amounts to a little over 12 crores—a figure which almost equals the total revenue expenditure of the Province in the last pre-war year, 1938-39. The Government of India have undertaken to make available to the Province the entire amount required for Development Projects in the current year. For productive or self-financing schemes, which, on completion, will yield adequate revenue to cover the working expenses, the maintenance and depreciation charges and the interest on the capital at charge, the Central Government will advance the requisite loan to cover the initial outlay. For non-productive schemes, outright grants will be made from the Central Post-War Reconstruction Fund. The effect of this financial arrangement is that no part of the expenditure relating to Development Projects will have to be met by the Province out of its own resources in the current year; and we can proceed with the execution of these projects without having to worry about ways and means. Such retarding factors as may arise in this connection will consist in lack of materials and trained personnel—not in lack of finance or initiative.

Outside the Development Programme, that is to say in the field of current administration, the financial position continues to be one of acute difficulty. Although the War has mercifully come to an end, the severity of the conditions which necessitated the bulk of the heavy and abnormal war-time expenditure shows no signs of mitigation. It has, if anything, been aggravated by the present shortage of food. The high level of expenditure involved in the procurement and distribution of foodstuff and in the administration of relief has to be maintained and in certain respects substantially enhanced. The persistence of inflated prices and the resultant high cost of living has made it necessary to further liberalise dearness concessions and to improve the pay-scales in respect of low-paid employees. Considerable leeway has to be made up in regard to essential repairs and replacements which were all held up during the War owing to non-availability of materials. While these and other factors preclude the possibility of any immediate reduction in expenditure, revenue receipts under a number of important heads show a distinct downward trend owing to the cessation of military activities. Thus a decline in Excise revenue to the extent of 2½ crores is anticipated as a result of the repatriation of military personnel and the disbandment of labour forces employed on military works. In the current year's Budget, revenue expenditure is expected to fall short of receipts by as much as 10 crores. The bridging of this wide gap between

receipt and expenditure presents a problem of considerable difficulty about which I shall have to say more later on.

Such, in outline, is the Budgetary position for the current year. Let me now proceed to fill in the details.

Thanks to a subvention of 8 crores from the Government of India, the heavy revenue deficit anticipated in 1945-46 was fully wiped out; and owing partly to this circumstance and partly to larger receipts from the Income-Tax pool, coupled with slower progress of expenditure than was originally anticipated under certain heads, the year ended with a closing balance of 7½ crores. This amount constitutes the opening balance for the current year and large as it is in comparison with the opening balance in previous years it is no more than what may be reasonably required for an estimated expenditure of over 50 crores on revenue account in the course of the year.

From the estimates in the hands of honourable members it will appear that the total revenue expected this year is of the order of 42½ crores out of which 10½ crores represent grants from the Centre for the financing of unproductive Development Projects. The yield from normal sources of revenue, therefore, amounts to 32 crores in all. The corresponding figure for the previous year excluding the subvention of 8 crores to which I have already referred, stand at 37 crores. There has thus been a decrease of 5 crores in revenue. Two crores and a half out of this amount is accounted for by the decline under "Excise" owing to circumstances already explained. The balance is distributed over a number of items. Receipts from Petrol Tax are expected to come down from a crore and 63 lakhs in 1945-46 to 40 lakhs only in the current year owing to cessation of military demands. A decline of ten lakhs is due to the abolition of the Tax on Professions and of 38 lakhs to reduced yield from Betting Tax and Entertainment Tax owing to the repatriation of military personnel. Forest receipts are expected to be down by 48 lakhs owing to stoppage of further orders for timber from the Supply Department. And a drop of half a crore is anticipated under "Stamps" on the basis of the latest trend of actuals.

On the expenditure side the total estimate for the current year stands at 52 crores. As this includes 10½ crores on account of Development Projects financed by outright grants from the Government of India, what may be called the "ordinary" expenditure for the year amounts to 41½ crores. The corresponding figure for 1945-46 is 39 crores. There has thus been an increase of 2½ crores in the ordinary expenditure for the current year. Let me explain briefly the reasons for this increase.

The only war-time charge which it has been possible to discontinue in the current year is the expenditure on Civil Defence, Home Guards and Civic Guards amounting to a little over a crore in all. As against this decrease, provision for heavy additional expenditure has had to be included under a number of items.

In order to afford some relief to Government servants against the cumulative effect of increased prices it has been decided, in consultation with the Government of India, to give retrospective effect to the present rates of dearness allowance by making them operative from 1st July, 1946 instead of from 1st January, 1945, the date prescribed in the Government order which had been in force in 1945-46. The effect of this measure on the current year's Budget is an additional liability of 53 lakhs.

Government have undertaken a comprehensive examination of the scale of pay of all classes of employees under its rule-making control with a view to bring such scales more in line with the altered economic conditions which are likely to prevail in the years to come. Pending the conclusion of this examination which will naturally take a considerable amount of time, it has been decided to afford some measure of immediate relief by an *ad hoc* increase of pay in the lower ranges in all branches of administration. The total cost of this concession amounts to a little over a crore in the current year.

The next important item, responsible for the increase in the current year's expenditure is the unexpectedly heavy loss, amounting to a crore and a half, on the Boat Construction Programme. It was assumed, when this Programme was launched in 1944 with a view to urgent replacement of boats lost through "Denial" and other causes, that the boats turned out would find a ready market and that the financial outlay would be fully and readily recouped. Unfortunately this assumption has not turned out to be correct and a loss of 1½ crores on this account which now appears to be inevitable, has been included in the current year's Budget.

Extra expenditure amounting to nearly half a crore is involved in certain measures of much-needed improvement under "General Administration" and "Police". Under the first head, it has been decided to maintain a fleet of 400 jeep cars and a number of speedy light planes with a view to improving touring facilities for important officials. The cost of this project including the provision of landing strips amounts to close upon 25 lakhs. Schemes of additional expenditure under the head "Police" include expansion of the Phana staff and the Armed Reserve for the Bengal Police and strengthening of the Duty Reserve as well as of the Armed and Unarmed branches of the Calcutta Police. Mechanised transport has been provided for increasing the mobility of the Police force throughout the Province and wireless nets have been set up in Calcutta and in outlying districts as a precaution against the breakdown of ordinary means of communication. These measures, taken in conjunction with the liberalisation of the pay-scales in the lower ranges of the Police force to which reference has already been made, involve a total outlay of close upon a crore. Negotiations are in progress with the Government of India for a substantial contribution towards this expenditure and on the assumption that the outcome of these negotiations will justify our expectations, the net charge on the Provincial Budget on account of these items has been taken as about 25 lakhs in the present estimates.

Extra provision to the extent of 75 lakhs has been made under "Civil Works". This is exclusive of arrear dearness allowance and increase in pay in the lower ranges. An increase of 20 lakhs is due to the resumption of essential repair works which could not be taken in hand during the War owing to non-availability of materials. Ten lakhs have been provided for the purchase of tools and plants and 8 lakhs for the entertainment of additional staff in connection with Post-war Road Planning. Resumption of suspended Road Fund Projects accounts for an increase of 10 lakhs and 25 lakhs have been provided for land acquisition and construction of buildings for additional office accommodation and residential quarters for Government officers. Among minor items may be mentioned a provision of 2 lakhs for Air-conditioning of the Secretariat Buildings in Calcutta, preliminaries for which had already been settled during the Section 93 administration.

There are less important variations under other heads but as full details have been furnished in the Red Book it is not necessary for me to go over them here. I shall conclude this review of "Current charges" with a short account of the provisions under two heads of expenditure which have acquired special importance under present day conditions. These are "Famine Relief" and "Extraordinary Charges". Under the first head, provision has been made for a Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation with a very senior and experienced officer at its head as Commissioner of Civil Relief. The activities of the Directorate include maintenance of Orphanages, Work-houses and Homes for destitutes; organisation of test works; establishment of cheap grain shops; opening of milk canteens and distribution of relief in various forms. The total provision under Famine Relief in the current year amounts to 2 crores 90 lakhs against an actual expenditure of 3 crores 17 lakhs in the preceding year. The two figures are, however, not strictly comparable. The cost of some 23,000 beds of Famine Relief Emergency Hospitals which was met last year from the Famine Budget has, in the current year, been transferred to the "Development" section of the Medical Budget because

these emergency beds have now been converted into quasi-permanent ones in properly equipped Auxiliary Government Hospitals in rural areas. The amount involved is over a crore and a half. If allowance is made for this adjustment, it will be found that the current year's provision for Famine Relief is considerably more than the amount spent in 1945-46. The increase is due to the general worsening of the situation as a result of the world-wide scarcity of food.

While on the subject of "Relief" I must make a brief reference to the recent disastrous floods in Chittagong and other parts of the Province which have rendered thousands of people homeless and destitute. We feel the utmost sympathy and commiseration for the unfortunate victims of this terrible calamity and I take this opportunity to assure the House that Government will take all possible measures for their relief and rehabilitation.

Under the other head "Extraordinary Charges" the provision in the current year amounts to 10 crores in all. This includes a loss of 2 crores on the sale of subsidised food to the public and of 1½ crores, as already explained, under the Boat Construction Programme. The provision for staff and contingencies in the Department of Civil Supplies including Rationing and Enforcement amounts to 6 crores out of which nearly a crore is required for the construction and maintenance of storage accommodation and improvement of roads in certain areas for facilitating transport of foodstuff.

Procurement Finance.

Provision has been made under the Capital head "85-A" for large scale transactions relating to the purchase of foodgrains and textiles. The total capital outlay involved in these operations is of the order of 52 crores out of which 48 crores will be found from sale proceeds and represents the turnover of stocks. The figure for loss adjustable in the current year is 2 crores under foodgrains and the book value of stock likely to remain in hand at the close of the year is estimated at 17 crores. Finance for the procurement of foodgrains is to be obtained by way of cash credit advances by the Imperial Bank, the maximum limit of such advances being for the present fixed at 30 crores. In the case of textiles the requisite finance is obtained through Treasury Bills.

Development Programme.

Let me now turn to the Development Programme. As I have already explained, this Programme aims at comprehensive and co-ordinated improvement in living conditions and economic standards throughout the Province. It embraces every sphere of nation-building activity, though the degree of emphasis necessarily varies from subject to subject and is in many cases conditioned by the availability of resources in material and personnel. The total provision made in these estimates for schemes included in the Development Programme is 12 crores 10 lakhs out of which 10 crores 45 lakhs falls under the Revenue Account, and the balance of 1 crore 65 lakhs, representing the outlay on self-financing schemes, is provided under Capital heads. Appendix II to the printed copy of this Statement shows the distribution of these provisions among the various major heads of expenditure and sets forth the schemes for which provision has been made. Let me refer briefly to some of the more important of these schemes.

Land Revenue.

There is a provision of 4 lakhs under Land Revenue for the inception of Revisional Settlement Operations in the Sunderbans area in connection with the plan for liquidating the Permanent Settlement. The House will recall that the Land Revenue Commission gave very careful consideration to this

question and recommended that steps should be taken to bring the actual cultivators into direct relation with Government by buying off the interest of all classes of rent-receivers in agricultural lands. The Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee urged very strongly on administrative grounds that Government should give the earliest effect to the foregoing recommendation of the Land Revenue Commission.

According to the scheme which has been drawn up for the purpose, the areas named below are proposed to be taken up in the following order of priority:—

- (1) Faridpur.
- (2) Bakarganj.
- (3) Sunderbans.
- (4) Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah.

Faridpur and Bakarganj are to be taken up first as Revisional Settlement Operations have been recently completed in the former district and are now in progress in the latter. The Revisional Settlement Operations in the Sunderbans area represent the next stage of the programme. The districts of Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah are also to be taken up shortly as they are likely to be benefited by major irrigation schemes in the very near future.

Irrigation.

Under Irrigation a sum of 30 lakhs has been provided for the re-excavation and improvement of derelict irrigation tanks, thousands of which lie scattered throughout the Province. This scheme will ensure that in the dry districts the cultivators will not have to depend entirely on rainfall for the production of their crops. It is also hoped that the resuscitation of these tanks will improve the facilities for pisciculture and provide more water for drinking and other purposes. A sum of 20 lakhs has been provided for 47 minor irrigation projects and a number of other schemes of irrigation and drainage for which plans are now ready for execution. Among smaller provisions may be mentioned 2 lakhs for the construction of irrigation wells and 2 lakhs for the collection of hydrological data in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. A sum of 5 lakhs has been provided for preliminary work in connection with the planning of a comprehensive drainage and irrigation scheme for Eastern and Northern Bengal. The immediate objective is the putting up of a dam across the Teesta river in Northern Bengal, which will ensure a large scale supply of electrical energy besides facilitating the irrigation of a very considerable tract of land.

Outside the Revenue account, there is a provision of 70 lakhs for the execution of Part II of the Mor Irrigation Project which is estimated to involve a total expenditure of 4 crores 38 lakhs. The object is to set up a barrage across the Mor river near Suri with weirs across the subsidiary channels of Dwarka, Brahmani, Bakreswar and Kopai and a network of irrigation canals. These are expected to irrigate an area of four hundred thousand acres in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad and Burdwan which suffer from conditions of chronic scarcity owing to erratic and undependable rainfall. It is expected that the resulting increase in the yield of paddy will be 44 lakhs of maunds per year. The piers of the barrage near Suri have been so designed as to enable them to carry a bridge across the river thereby improving the means of communication with the adjacent Province of Bihar. As the project is expected to be a productive one, it will be financed by loan and the expenditure has been provided under a Capital head.

Agriculture.

In respect of Agricultural schemes included in the Development Programme the provision under the Revenue account amounts to a crore and 29 lakhs out of which 89 lakhs comes under "Civil Works" for the acquisition of land and the construction of requisite buildings.

Outside the Revenue account there is a provision of 41 lakhs for the establishment of 28 seed multiplication farms and one jute seed multiplication farm. The seed multiplication farms will each cover an area of 200 acres and will be devoted to the production of improved seeds of paddy and other foodgrains. The jute seed multiplication farm is to be situated on an area of 1,000 acres out of which 400 acres will be put under the highest grade of jute every year by rotation and in the remaining area paddy and various rabi crops will be grown. It is hoped in this way to secure an adequate supply of improved jute seeds and to distribute them among jute growers on a large scale and at a reasonable price. As these schemes are all expected to be productive ones it is proposed to finance them by loan.

Among unproductive schemes proposed to be financed out of grants from the Centre, the most important is the establishment of a Central Live-stock Research *cum* Breeding Station at Haringhata. The scheme consists of three main parts, viz.,—

- (i) the breeding of high grade cattle, goats and poultry;
- (ii) research relating to all matters affecting the live-stock industry, e.g., animal nutrition, genetics, pasturage and dairy technology; and
- (iii) establishment of a dairy on the most up-to-date scientific and hygienic lines.

The current year's cost on account of this scheme is estimated at 58 lakhs out of which 45 lakhs represent the cost of land and buildings.

A smaller scheme on somewhat similar lines involves the establishment of a multipurpose Agricultural farm at Kalimpong for the breeding of Siri kulls, hill goats and hill sheep and the raising of improved varieties of hill paddy, maize, flax and pyrethrum. The cost for the current year amounts to 8 lakhs out of which 6 lakhs has been provided under Civil Works for land and buildings.

Other provisions for the improvement of the live-stock industry include 3 lakhs for large scale breeding of goats and 6 lakhs for a live-stock farm for carrying out scientific breeding and management of stock.

With a view to securing rapid and adequate training for the higher technical personnel required for the development of agricultural activities, the Agricultural Institute at Dacca is being suitably expanded and reorganised at a cost of 11 lakhs including 7 lakhs for buildings; while for the training of subordinate technical personnel additional facilities are being provided at an estimated cost of 8 lakhs out of which 6 lakhs is on account of buildings. These include expansion of the Agricultural Institutions at Chinsura and Daulatpur and the establishment of a new institution at Gaibandha.

Other provisions which call for individual mention are 3 lakhs for the expansion of Agricultural research, 4 lakhs for the improvement of Horticulture and 8 lakhs for the establishment of a fully equipped Sugar cane Research station. A sum of 11 lakhs has been provided for land and buildings in connection with a scheme for the provision of seed stores at Thana Headquarters. These stores will form the nucleus of extension activities and will stock seeds of departmental farms, manures and agricultural implements for distribution among cultivators.

Industries.

The total provision in respect of projects of Industrial Development amounts to 1 crore. Out of this, 54 lakhs representing the cost of four productive schemes has been provided under a Capital head outside the Revenue account. The first of these schemes relates to the Electrification of a semi-rural area, covering about 2,200 square miles and

lying within the triangle formed by Gourepore, Burdwan and Krishnagar. The scheme involves the construction of two transmission lines from the existing supply station at Gourepore to Burdwan and Krishnagar, these two towns being joined by a tie line through Navadwip. Sub-stations are to be installed in suitable towns and villages on the route with a view to making electrical energy available to individual consumers. Energy is to be purchased in bulk from the Gourepore Electric Supply Company. The scheme is designed to accelerate industrial development in the area which is well served by roads and railways and the system can be eventually inter-connected with developments in the Damodar Valley and with power stations erected in the coalfields. The current year's provision for this scheme amounts to 20 lakhs.

The next item is a provision of 15 lakhs, designed to secure participation in the Government of India's scheme for the production of artificial fertilisers. It was originally intended to set up a small factory for this purpose in Bengal but in view of the decision of the Government of India to set up a large scale factory at Sindri in Bihar it is now proposed to participate in this project by subscribing 75 lakhs towards the capital cost. The current year's provision represents the first instalment of this subscription.

The third provision under the Capital head is one of 13 lakhs for a scheme of Industrial Centres the object of which is to develop village industries on commercial lines with modern technique through small village factories under a centralised production and marketing organisation. The scheme will be run as a commercial enterprise with the object of making all the Centres self-supporting as quickly as possible.

Finally there is a provision of 6 lakhs for the exploitation of coastal and estuarine fisheries. This scheme provides for the transport of fish from the fishing areas in refrigerated boats to a lighter, also provided with refrigeration facilities, where the fish will be cleaned and frozen and then transported in insulated carriers to the railhead at Khulna. From there the fish will be conveyed to Calcutta in an insulated wagon which the Railway authorities have promised to provide. Orders have already been placed in Australia for motor boats fitted with refrigerators and two boats have recently been acquired from the Royal Navy to serve as carriers. It is hoped to have the scheme in full working before the end of the current year.

In the Revenue account under "Industries", 8 lakhs have been provided for the expansion of the Department of Fisheries. The scheme provides for the appointment of an additional Director of Fisheries and also for an increase in the number of Superintendents, District Fishery Officers and Fishery Overseers for work in the districts. It also includes a provision for an experimental *cum* touring launch at a cost of about 3 lakhs.

There is a provision of 14 lakhs for the development of the Sericulture Industry, including 5 lakhs under "Civil Works" for the construction of buildings. The schemes include improvement and expansion of sericulture nurseries, reorganisation of the Reeling Institute at Malda and the establishment of a Training Institute for subordinate sericultural staff.

Among other items included in the Revenue account under "Industries" may be mentioned a provision of 4 lakhs for the reorganisation of the Ceramic Institute, 6 lakhs for the expansion of the Textile Institute and 5 lakhs for the development of the Tanning Institute. There is also a provision of 2 lakhs for the appointment of Power Engineers and requisite subordinate staff for the development of electricity in the Province; and of 3 lakhs for a scheme for increased production of quinine.

Medical.

A provision of 2½ crores is included in the Medical Budget with a further crore and a half under "Civil Works" for land and buildings, in respect of

Development Projects dealing with the improvement of medical facilities which are at present so hopelessly inadequate. The most important item is concerned with an increase in the number of hospital beds in rural areas. The number of permanent beds at present available is only 6,400 which works out at barely one bed per 9,000 heads of population. Some 23,000 emergency beds were opened in connection with the Famine and it has now been decided to convert the great majority of these into quasi-permanent beds in properly equipped Auxiliary Government Hospitals in rural areas. This scheme involves an outlay of a crore and 70 lakhs in staff and equipment and of 40 lakhs on buildings. For the improvement of existing hospitals 25 lakhs have been provided under "Medical" with a further 20 lakhs under "Civil Works" for additions to buildings. It is proposed to establish a temporary Medical College at the Lake Area in Calcutta with an attached hospital of 1,000 beds. The outlay involved is 2 lakhs for the acquisition of buildings and 19 lakhs for staff and equipment. The next item on the programme is the conversion of the Medical School at Dacca into a Medical College with 500 additional beds at a cost of 20 lakhs under "Civil Works" and 7 lakhs under "Medical". For two other important projects, namely, the conversion of the Campbell Medical School into a Medical College with 100 additional beds and the establishment of an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Calcutta, provisions of 20 and 15 lakhs respectively have been made under "Civil Works" in respect of land and buildings, no provision being required in the Medical Budget till the requisite buildings are ready. Two other projects which call for individual mention are the establishment of a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Amulia in the district of Burdwan and the opening of a Tuberculosis Hospital at Kanchrapara. For the first scheme 200 acres of land have been secured on the bank of the river Ajoy near Asansol and it is proposed to build an administrative block with requisite equipment as well as cottages and cabins for 200 patients to start with. The current year's provision amounts to 10 lakhs for land and buildings and is included under "Civil Works". For the second scheme, the American Hospital at Kanchrapara has been taken over complete with stores, appliances and equipment. It is provided with its own power station and water station with automatic chlorination and piped water supply. The current year's provision for its conversion to a Tuberculosis Hospital is 11 lakhs under "Medical" and 3 lakhs under "Civil Works". Among other items included in the Development Programme under this head may be mentioned the creation of an Ambulance Service at a cost of 9 lakhs and measures for the control and prevention of venereal diseases estimated to cost about 4 lakhs.

Public Health.

The Development Programme under "Public Health" includes 50 lakhs for a comprehensive scheme of rural water supply which will ensure proper maintenance and repair of existing sources and the setting up of new sources, on a carefully planned basis, at the rate of at least 2,000 tube wells per year. There is also a provision of 20 lakhs for the improvement of water supply and drainage in Municipal areas. A large number of waterworks and drainage schemes drawn up by Municipal authorities are pending for a very long time either through financial stringency or through lack of materials. The object of the provision is to enable such schemes to be carried out without further delay. Other provisions include 3 lakhs for the control of Malaria, 2 lakhs for Maternity and Child-welfare, 1 lakh for the creation of a Public Health Nutrition Organisation and 6 lakhs mostly under "Civil Works" for land and buildings for the establishment of two leper colonies at Bankura and Peardhoba.

Education.

The total provision for schemes of Educational Development amounts to 75 lakhs out of which 19 lakhs have been provided under "Civil Works" for

land and buildings. The largest individual item is a provision of 20 lakhs in connection with proposals designed to improve the prospects of primary school teachers on whose efficient and contented service the success of primary education so largely depends. There is also a provision of 16 lakhs for the training of staff for Primary Training Schools. It is proposed to open two residential training Colleges for this purpose in the current year with attached experimental schools. The bulk of the expenditure will be for the construction of buildings and has therefore been provided under "Civil Works". A large proportion of the trainees will be officers of the Education Department. Ten lakhs have been provided for the encouragement of post-graduate research and 8 lakhs for the immediate improvement of Engineering courses in the Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur, and the Jadavpur Technological College. A sum of 5 lakhs has been provided for the training of students abroad; 4 lakhs for the technical training of ex-service personnel; and 4 lakhs for equipment and machinery for Government educational institutions.

Other Schemes.

Provisions under other heads include 21 lakhs under "Forest" for the training of technical personnel, rehabilitation of existing forests, afforestation of additional areas and improvement of communications, buildings and water supply in Government Forests. There is also a scheme for reorganisation of the Co-operative Department for which a provision of 4 lakhs has been included under "Co-operation".

Among miscellaneous items of Development special mention may be made of a provision of 15 lakhs for the re-housing of *bustee*-dwellers. Model schemes of re-housing have been drawn up by the technical staff of the Calcutta Improvement Trust and plans are under consideration for the setting up of satellite towns within easy reach of Calcutta. Government are also setting up a Housing Board which will enter carefully into all important aspects of the housing problem under present day conditions. The current year's provision represents the first instalment of the expenditure which is likely to be required for the execution of these schemes.

A second important item is the establishment of a properly organised Fire-Service throughout the Province. Before the war, the only fire brigades in Bengal were those in Calcutta and Darjeeling. As a war-time emergency measure an Auxiliary Fire Service was established for Calcutta and its suburbs and the Bengal Fire Service was established for other threatened areas in the Province. It is now proposed to organise a permanent Fire Service for the whole of Bengal and to provide all important urban areas with fire-fighting equipment and personnel. The cost of the scheme in the current year is estimated at 40 lakhs.

There is also a special provision of 50 lakhs for the purchase of such surplus military land, buildings, stores and equipment as may be readily available for utilisation in connection with the Development Programme or the administration of nation-building departments. A special officer of high status has been appointed as Chief Purchasing Agent for this purpose with powers to negotiate direct with the military authorities.

Civil Works.

The total provision under "Civil Works" in connection with the Development Programme amounts to 3 crores 82 lakhs. Out of this amount a crore is required for the construction of Provincial highways and major District Board roads. The balance represents the provision for land and buildings required by other Departments for their respective Development

Projects. The distribution among the more important Departments is as follows:—

Medical—1 crore 35 lakhs.

Agriculture—88 lakhs.

Education—19 lakhs.

Police—12 lakhs.

Industries—11 lakhs.

Jails—6 lakhs.

To complete the picture it may be added that the construction of National Highways passing through this Province involves an expenditure of 56 lakhs in the current year. But as the entire charge will be borne directly by the Centre no increase on this account appears in the Provincial Budget.

I have now placed before the House an outline of the Programme of Development chalked out for the current year. Fuller details will be furnished by my Honourable colleagues while moving their respective demands for grants. I need hardly point out that the current year's provisions represent merely the initial stages of the Programme, the final blue-print of which is still under consideration. As I have hinted earlier in the course of this statement unexpected difficulties in the procurement of building materials, tools and plants and particularly of trained technicians may stand in the way of rapid progress. But with earnestness, goodwill and co-operation there is no reason why a substantial part of the programme laid down for the current year should not be successfully executed. So far as the effect on the Budget is concerned, any short fall in Development expenditure will involve correspondingly short drawal from the Government of India of loans or grants as the case may be and the net budgetary position will not be affected in any way.

Financial Results.

Let me now summarise the financial results of the working of the year according to the estimates placed before the House. The year starts with an opening balance of 7½ crores. The revenue deficit on the year's working, as I have already stated, amounts to 10 crores. And in order to secure a closing balance of 2½ crores, which is the barest minimum necessary for working purposes, not only is the entire opening balance wiped out but an additional 5 crores has to be found by some means or other. For the purpose of the present estimates, it has been assumed that short-term borrowing in the shape of Treasury Bills worth 5 crores will be resorted to during the year. It is repugnant to sentiment and self-interest alike that the Province should, at this stage, be saddled with a heavy burden of unproductive debt. The Centre has, from time to time, been good enough to grant this Province certain measures of *ad hoc* relief representing, in the aggregate, roughly half the cost of the disastrous 1943 famine. The size of our Famine Budget in the current year and the heavy expenditure on the sale of subsidised food to the public bear testimony to the fact that the conditions created by the terrible calamity of 1943 have not yet passed away: and we hope and trust that we shall not be denied such further assistance from the Centre as may prove necessary to enable us to fight and overcome these conditions. Bengal has never been remiss in its efforts to help itself. Within the Provincial field of taxation there is not a single source of any importance which has been left untapped: and in the great majority of cases the optimum rate has very nearly been reached. I am, however, examining very carefully all further possibilities of increasing our resources and in the present session I propose to seek the assent of the House to a Bill enhancing the rate of Tax on sales of motor spirit by 5½ annas per gallon. This enhancement is expected to bring in an extra 75 lakhs of revenue and possessing as it does the undeniable merit of not adding to the cost of living of the poorer classes the measure, I hope, will receive the ready approval of the House.

Conclusion.

So far as the formal presentation of the Estimates is concerned I have done; but before I resume my seat I should like to say a few words about the stupendous nature of the task that lies ahead of us. This Province finds itself involved in the present acute and world-wide food crisis before it has had time to recover from the effects of the last disastrous famine. To make matters worse, a devastating flood has just taken a very heavy toll of its all too slender resources in food, cattle and material wealth. Government must and will do everything that is possible to alleviate distress and to extricate the Province from its present unfortunate plight. This, however, is not, by itself, sufficient. As I have already explained, the budgetary plans for the current year seek to achieve more than the bare repair of ravages caused by flood, famine and war. They lay down the foundations for the great work of national reconstruction calling for united and devoted labour in the fields of Health and Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry. For the successful execution of this noble task we depend on the help and co-operation of all parties and classes and I fervently appeal to all sections of the House—and through them to the country at large—to stand shoulder to shoulder with Government for the fulfilment of our common objective which is the building up of a better, healthier and happier Bengal. I cannot do better in this connection than to recall to the House the stirring words uttered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister immediately on his assumption of office—

“We shall work in a spirit of service, fully conscious of the tremendous burden of our responsibilities; and in this task we shall need the assistance of the best brains of the Province, and from outside the Province where necessary, and the co-operation of men of goodwill.”

APPENDIX I.**Bengal Budget, 1946-47.**

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

		Actuals, 1945-46.	Budget, 1946-47.
Revenue.			
Opening Balance	..	3,64,81	7,65,50
Revenue Receipts	..	44,82,75	42,50,66
Receipts from Debt Heads	..	1,18,58,82	1,18,42,49
Total	..	1,67,06,38	1,68,58,65
Expenditure.			
Revenue Expenditure	..	39,05,81	52,20,69
Capital Expenditure	..	—6,46,70	2,22,79
Expenditure on Debt Heads	..	1,26,81,77	1,11,48,75
Closing Balance	..	7,65,50	2,66,42
Total	..	1,67,06,38	1,68,58,65
Net Result.			
Surplus +			
Deficit —			
(a) On Revenue Account	..	+5,76,94	—9,70,03
(b) Outside Revenue Account	..	—1,76,25	+4,70,95
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	..	+4,00,69	—4,99,08

APPENDIX II.
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

Abstract.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

				Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	
				Voted.	Charged.
A—Revenue Account—					
7—Land Revenue	..	..	..	3,89	15
10—Forest	..	..	..	19,62	1,41
18—Irrigation	..	..	..	73,84	..
25—General Administration	..	..	..	1,17	..
29—Police	..	..	..	2,00	..
37—Education—General	..	..	..	54,76	..
38—Medical	..	..	..	2,46,32	..
39—Public Health	..	..	..	76,00	..
40—Agriculture	..	..	..	41,45	..
41—Veterinary	..	..	..	1,01	..
42—Co-operation	..	..	..	4,30	..
43—Industries—Industries	..	..	..	31,63	..
43—Industries—Cinchona	..	..	..	3,39	..
47—Miscellaneous Departments	..	..	..	1,03	..
50—Civil Works	..	..	..	3,81,85	..
57—Miscellaneous	..	..	..	1,01,19	..
Total (Revenue Account)			..	10,43,45	1,56
				10,45,01	
B—Outside Revenue Account—					
68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	..	..	..	70,00	..
71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research	..	..	..	41,70	..
72—Capital outlay on Industrial Development	..	..	..	53,68	..
Total (Outside Revenue Account)			..	1,65,38	..
				1,65,38	
Grand Total			..	12,10,39	

7—Land Revenue.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

		Budget Estimate, 1946-47.	
		Voted.	Charged.
Simplification of the existing Land Revenue system on the basis of the Land Revenue Commission's Report ..		3,89	15
		4,04	

10—Forest.

Improvement of communications, buildings and water-supply in Government Forests	7,40	82
Rehabilitation of existing Government Forests	4,56	36
Afforestation in the district of Nadia	3,29	..
Conservation of private forests and afforestation of private waste lands	1,92	23
Provision for training of technical and other personnel ..	1,92	..
Creation of a Soil Conservation Circle	53	..
	19,62	1,41
	21,03	

18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenue.

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.
Re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks	30,00
Minor provincial irrigation and drainage schemes	20,24
Relief and rehabilitation irrigation schemes	10,00
Planning of a comprehensive irrigation and drainage scheme for the whole of Bengal excepting Western Bengal	5,00
Excavation and re-excavation of silted up small irrigation and drainage channels	5,00
Extension of irrigation facilities by construction of wells, etc. ..	2,00
Collection of hydrological data (gauge and discharge observation of principal rivers and silt and salinity observation) in Mymensingh and Eastern Divisions	1,52
	73,84

25—General Administration.

Appointment of additional Circle Officers	1,17
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29—Police.

Increase of self-propelled watercraft for police forces in riverine districts	2,00
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37—Education—General.

	Budget Estimate 1946-47.
Increasing the salaries of existing primary school teachers ..	20,00
Encouragement of Post-graduate research	10,00
Immediate improvement of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur ..	5,00
Equipment and machinery for Government Institutions ..	4,00
Further education and technical training of <i>ex-servicemen</i> ..	3,50
Scheme for sending students abroad for training in various courses of technology	2,66
Grants to Jadavpur College	2,40
Training abroad of students selected in 1946-47	2,28
Expansion of girls' secondary education to provide more matriculates for primary school training	1,50
Strengthening of Headquarters staff for supervision of the new system of education	1,05
Expansion of training facilities for graduate women teachers ..	67
Improvement of 50 selected high schools of the province ..	65
Deputation of officers of the Education Department in connection with primary school training	46
Training of the staff of Primary Training Schools	46
Appointment of Physical training instructresses in the Women's Training Schools	8
Training of nursery school trainers and teachers	5
	<hr/> 54,76 <hr/>

38—Medical.

Increase in the number of hospital beds and provision of new beds in rural areas	1,70,00
Rehabilitation and improvement of existing hospitals	25,00
Establishment of a temporary Medical College at the Lake area in Calcutta with a temporary 1,000 bedded hospital	19,00
Establishment of T. B. Hospital at Kanchrapara	10,76
Creation of an Ambulance Service	7,54
Conversion of the Medical School at Dacca into a Medical College and provision of 500 additional beds	6,80
Control and prevention of venereal diseases	3,97
Improvement of the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi	1,83
Children's Ward in Calcutta Medical College	64
Improvement of nursing system and establishment of a Bengal Nursing Service	38
Study leave <i>ex-India</i> to the officers of the Bengal Medical Service (Upper)	30
Improvement of Pharmacy and Pharmacy training	10
	<hr/> 2,46,34 <hr/>

39—Public Health.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.
Rural Water-supply scheme	50,00
Water-supply and drainage in municipal areas	20,00
Malaria control (including intensive Malaria control in the fringe of Salt Water Lake area)	3,00
Maternity and Child Welfare	1,50
Creation of a Public Health Nutrition Organisation	1,00
Establishment of two Leper Colonies—	
(a) At Bankura .. .. .	..
(b) At Peardhoba	50
	<hr/> 76,00

40—Agriculture.

Establishment of a Central Livestock Research-cum-Breeding station ..	13,55
Improvement of livestock industry	5,70
Expansion of the Bengal Agricultural Institute, Dacca	3,73
Goat multiplication scheme	3,02
Expansion of Agricultural Research	3,00
Organisation of the Horticultural Section for developing the fruit and fruit products industry	2,02
Establishment of a Livestock Breeding Farm at Kalimpong	1,63
Training of lower technical personnel	1,63
Expansion of the Department of Agricultural Marketing	1,56
Sugarcane research	1,41
Expansion of the District Agricultural staff for intensified work in demonstration, etc.	1,40
Establishment of Agricultural Centres for training of ex-soldiers	80
Establishment of a five-acre potato breeding station	64
Development of publicity and propaganda organisation of the Agriculture Department	39
Expansion of the commodity grading centres	38
Purchase of tents for touring officers	34
National Park	10
Provision of Plant Protection staff	9
Encouragement of the cultivation of fodder crops	6
	<hr/> 41,45

41—Veterinary.

Provision of better facilities for veterinary aid in Calcutta and its suburbs ..	64
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Veterinary College and of Veterinary Vaccine Section	37
	<hr/> 1,01

42—Co-operation.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Budget Estimate, 1946-47.
Reorganisation of the staff of the Co-operative Department ..	4,00
Development of Co-operative Irrigation Societies ..	30
	<hr/> 4,30

43—Industries—Industries.

Expansion of the Department of Fisheries in Bengal ..	8,20
Reorganisation of the Department of Sericulture ..	7,90
Reorganisation of existing seven nurseries and creation of nine new nurseries for research in mulberry cultivation, etc. ..	
Reorganisation of the Peddie Reeling Institute, Malda Sericultural Development ..	
Reorganisation of the Bengal Textile Institute, Serampore ..	4,34
Reorganisation of the Ceramic Institute, Calcutta ..	2,91
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Tanning Institute ..	2,46
Appointment of Power Engineers and staff for development of electricity	1,86
Sending abroad selected officials of the Department to receive training in specific subjects ..	1,00
Reorganisation of the Department of Industries, Bengal ..	87
Establishment of a Bengal Sericultural Training Institute ..	84
Development of tank fisheries in Bengal ..	80
Fish culture and Malaria ..	32
Development of fisheries in the Sunderbans Abad areas ..	13
	<hr/> 31,63

43—Industries—Cinchona.

Increased production of quinine ..	3,34
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47—Miscellaneous Departments.

Establishment of a conciliation machinery for settling industrial disputes	84
Development of Trade Unions on sound lines ..	
Opening of new Labour Welfare Centres and improvement of existing ones ..	
Establishment of a Labour Advisory Board ..	1
Publication of a Labour Journal ..	
	<hr/> 1,0

50—Civil Works.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Budget
Estimate;
1946-47.**Original Works—Buildings.***General Administration.*

Reconstruction of District and Subdivisional Offices	5,00
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Jails.

Improvement of Jails	6,00
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Police.

Construction of Police buildings	12,00
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Education.

Training of the staff of Primary Training Schools	15,00
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Expansion of girls' secondary education to provide more matriculates for primary school training	2,50
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Improvement of 50 selected High Schools	1,00
---	----	----	------

Buildings for the Dacca Intermediate College	50
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Medical.

Increase in the number of hospital beds and provision of new beds in rural areas	40,00
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Rehabilitation and improvement of existing hospitals	20,00
--	----	----	-------

Conversion of the Medical School at Dacca into a Medical College and provision of 500 additional beds	20,00
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Conversion of the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, into a Medical College and provision of 100 additional beds	20,00
--	----	----	-------

Provision of an infectious diseases hospital in Calcutta	15,00
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Establishment of T. B. hospitals—

(a) At Amulia	10,00
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(b) At Kanchrapara	3,00
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Improvement of nursing system and establishment of a Bengal Nursing Service	3,00
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Establishment of a temporary Medical College in the Lake area in Calcutta with a temporary 1,000-bedded hospital	2,00
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Creation of an Ambulance Service	1,00
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Improvement of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Training	50
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Public Health.

Establishment of Leper Colonies—

(a) At Peardhoba	3,60
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(b) At Bankura	2,00
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[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Budget
Estimate,
1946-47.*Agriculture.*

Establishment of a Central Livestock Research-cum-Breeding Station ..	45,00
Provision of seed stores at each thana Headquarters ..	11,00
Expansion of Bengal Agricultural Institute, Dacca ..	7,27
Sugarcane research	6,83
Training of lower technical personnel ..	6,31
Establishment of a Livestock Breeding farm at Kalimpong ..	6,25
Establishment of Agricultural Centres for training of ex-soldiers ..	2,70
Organisation of the Horticultural Section for developing the fruit and fruit products industry	2,10

Veterinary.

Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Veterinary College and of Veterinary Vaccine Section	5,00
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Industries.

Reorganisation of the Department of Sericulture	5,00
Reorganisation of existing seven nurseries and creation of nine new nurseries for research in mulberry cultivation, etc.	
Reorganisation of the Peddie Reeling Institute, Malda	
Sericultural Development	
Expansion and reorganisation of the Bengal Tanning Institute ..	2,73
Reorganisation of the Bengal Textile Institute, Serampore ..	1,86
Reorganisation of the Ceramic Institute, Calcutta	85
Establishment of a Bengal Sericultural Training Institute	75

Miscellaneous.

Peace-time Fire Service	4,00
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Original Works—Communications.

Construction and improvement of Provincial Highways, Major District Roads, etc.	92,10
	<hr/> 3,81,85 <hr/>

57—Miscellaneous.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

				Budget Estimate, 1946-47
Purchase of surplus military stores	..	..	..	50,00
Peace-time fire service	..	..	..	36,19
Rehousing of bustee-dwellers	..	..	..	15,00
				<hr/> 1,01,19 <hr/>

58—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

Mor Reservoir Project	..	..	..	70,00
				<hr/>

71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

Establishment of 28 Seed Multiplication Farms	..	..	35,33
Establishment of a Jute Seed Multiplication Farm	..	..	6,04
Creation of a Works and Buildings Section under the Directorate of Agriculture	..	..	33
			<hr/> 41,70 <hr/>

72—Capital outlay on Industrial Development.

North Calcutta Rural Electrification Scheme	..	..	20,23
Participation in the Government of India Scheme for manufacture of fertilisers	..	..	15,00
Industrial Centres	..	..	12,63
Exploitation of coastal and estuarine fisheries and provision of fishing fleet	..	..	5,82
			<hr/> 53,68 <hr/>

The Bengal Finance (Extending) Ordinance, 1946.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, with your permission I beg to lay the Bengal Finance (Extending) Ordinance, 1946, before the Bengal Legislative Assembly as required under section 88(2)(a) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-25 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday the 25th July, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled
under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 25th July, 1946, at 4.45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur NURUL AMIN) in the Chair,
7 Hon'ble Ministers and 219 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

**Adoption of recommendations regarding Public Service Commission by the
Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee.**

*4. **Mr. S. K. SAWDAY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department be pleased to state—

- (i) whether Government accept the recommendations with regard to the Bengal Public Service Commission contained in the Report of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee, 1944-45;
- (ii) if not, why not; and
- (iii) if so, what action has been taken to give effect to these recommendations?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action in particular has been taken to give effect to the recommendations—

- (i) that Ministers should have no hand whatever in the appointment, promotion, transfer or posting of any officer of lower status than a Secretary or Deputy Secretary to Government or a head or deputy head of a department;
- (ii) that the Commission should ordinarily not be asked to suggest the names of more candidates than there are vacancies; and
- (iii) that the Commission's Report should be published *in toto*?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a)(i) The recommendations are still under consideration of Government and no decision has yet been taken except in regard to the recommendation referred to in question (b)(iii).

(ii), (iii), (b) (i) and (ii) Do not arise.

(iii) It has been decided that this recommendation need not be accepted for the present.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain with reference to answer (b)(iii) what are the reasons for the decision that this recommendation need not be accepted for the present?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: The whole matter is under examination.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what consideration is needed to decide the question as to whether the Public Service Commission's report should be published *in toto*?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I ask for notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has given its careful consideration while deciding that the Commission's report should not be published *in toto* and, if so, what are the reasons which actuated Government to take that decision?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question was already put by Mr. Stark and has been answered.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Government has decided that the report need not be published *in toto*. I am asking for the reasons for this decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: This very question was put by Mr. Stark and the Parliamentary Secretary has given the answer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am asking, in view of the fact that Government has taken a decision, what were the reasons for the Government's decision and notice on what is asked for by the Hon'ble Minister?

(No reply.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer that the whole recommendation is under the consideration of Government, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the special reason for selecting out of the whole recommendation this portion and taking a decision on it?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: It is not a permanent decision. It is a tentative decision only. Still the matter is under examination.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long it will take Government to consider that Ministers should have no hand whatever in the appointment, transfer or posting of any officer of lower status than a Secretary or Deputy Secretary to Government or a head or deputy head of a department?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise because the answer is already there—it is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. A. F. STARK: May I explain the position? My question is how long will this consideration take.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Departmental examination has been made and the matter is under the consideration of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question was how long it would take for the Government to come to a decision.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I do not know. I think very shortly.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please give us some idea as to the time when they are going to take a final decision?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: It is not possible for me to give the time.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Finance (Extending) Bill, 1946.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Finance (Extending) Bill, 1946.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: On a point of order, Sir. Can the Hon'ble Minister introduce a Bill without giving us notice for sending amendments? Sir, I think he cannot prove that notices were sent to us

actually. We have not received any notice. So, it would be sheer injustice on the part of the Government to deprive us of our valuable privilege and right to submit our amendments.

Mr. SPEAKER: Notice was sent to the members on the 13th.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We have not received and I do not know if any of our friends received.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: I do affirm that I have not received any.

Mr. SPEAKER: Might be, but it was sent. At that time there was no postal strike.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Is the Speaker satisfied that notices were sent?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am only concerned with sending of notices. I do not know whether those notices reached the members or not. The party whips, I understand, have got them from the office.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. This raises a very important question. The intention of the provision to have to give notice to members entails that members must have been given that notice which they reasonably may receive. If after despatch of the notice, either through the default of somebody in the office or somewhere else the notices are not sent actually to the members and members fail to receive them, a very important issue arises. In view of the postal strike, it may be that the notices have not reached honourable members. Therefore, honourable members have been deprived of the opportunity of exercising their rights and powers with regard to this Bill regarding which they might have taken some decision. I, therefore, ask for your ruling, whether it is your intention that even in the event of notices not reaching members, not one or two members but not reaching members wholesale, you would still like such business to be proceeded with in this House. It would be setting a very dangerous precedent. Will you kindly also ascertain as to how many members have not got notice by asking them to rise in their seats before you proceed with this Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as this Bill is concerned, the office was not satisfied by only sending these letters by post but the whips of the parties were also informed and it is presumed that all the members have known by this time the last date for receiving amendments to this Bill. From now we have made the arrangement on account of the postal strike to inform the party whips of the last date for receiving amendments with regard to other Bills that will be coming up before this House. I think that will satisfy the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: I have been informed only this day that notices of amendments for the Howrah Improvement Trust Bill will have to be given by tomorrow. As to other Bills, we have not been served with any notice whatever.

Mr. SPEAKER: What other Bills you mean?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: I mean this Finance Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this matter I would like to hear the Leader of the Opposition, because this is a very small Bill and if the Opposition really feel that they have been deprived of a very valuable right by not receiving this letter for notice of amendments, this may be deferred, but so far as this Bill is concerned, I think that question cannot arise.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: It is not a question whether a Bill is a small or a big one. It is a question of the privilege of the members of this House and we feel that every member ought to get proper notice of a Bill which the Government seeks to introduce. Therefore I should submit that this Bill should not be taken up now.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I most respectfully submit that when it is foreseen that by post notices cannot reach the members, provision is made usually to send those notices by messengers and that is why Calcutta addresses of members are kept. It was foreseen that, due to the postal strike, notices, even if despatched, could not reach the members. It was, therefore, the duty of the office to take additional trouble, in these circumstances, either to postpone the measure or to send the notices by special messengers. There are instances when special messengers have been sent to see that notices reach the members in time before a Bill is taken up in this House. I submit this fact for your consideration and hope you will pay your attention to it while giving your ruling.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, this is a very small Bill and if the members from the Opposition desire to move amendments, and if you will relax the rule and permit them to move their amendments on the floor of the House, I have no objection. We can consider those amendments here and now. (Cries of "No, No" from the Opposition Benches.) It is only a two-clause Bill and as far as I can see it is also a non-controversial Bill.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is not a non-controversial Bill.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, we have not seen the Bill and we cannot say whether it is controversial or non-controversial.

Mr. SPEAKER: The adjournment motion is fixed for 5 p.m. today. The Bill cannot be finished today. So far as the introduction is concerned, that may be done now and Secretary will read the short title of the Bill.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg formally to oppose the introduction of the Bill. I want to reserve my speech until the Bill is taken up. It cannot be done now. It will take more than a few minutes left.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have got two or three minutes more. You can start speaking now.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I oppose the introduction of the Bill. The reason is this: it is a tax imposing Bill and we want to oppose all manner of taxes for various reasons. The first reason is this: we have read, Sir, in the statement made by the Finance Minister yesterday how they have become guilty of the criminal wastage of public money. We have seen that on the boat construction matter Government have wasted Rs. 1½ crores of public revenues. A Government which is responsible for the criminal wastage of such an amount cannot be entrusted with any money whatsoever, and for this reason on principle I oppose the introduction of the Bill. Moreover, so far as this Bill is concerned, the object is this that the Bill was passed in the year—

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of order, Sir. I would like to have a ruling from you whether there can be any opposition to a motion for introduction of the Bill. I would submit that introduction of the Bill is not a motion at all, and if it is not a motion, I wonder how there can be any opposition to its introduction.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, time is up. Therefore we can only proceed with the business of the House, namely, the adjournment motion.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion which runs thus: that this Assembly do now stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the acute distress that has come to prevail in the different parts of Bengal owing to the failure of the Government of Bengal to reduce the abnormally high prices and to maintain adequate supply of rice.

In rising to move this motion, I wish to assure, at the very outset, that this motion has been tabled in no spirit of acrimonious debate or political fussing. The situation has become too grave for any such thing. In moving this motion, therefore, I want to impress upon all sections of this House the extreme gravity of the situation and to remind them of the very great responsibility that lies on their shoulders as also the very great obligation they have to discharge to the people of Bengal. It is the declared policy of the Congress never to treat food as a matter of narrow party politics, and what shall be said today from this side of the House, will not be said with the object of making any political capital. But, Sir, we would be failing in our duty if we do not be free and frank, even rude and unpleasant, for if the facts themselves are unpleasant, we also cannot mince matters and shall have to be unpleasant and there is no way out of it.

What is the situation today? Before three years could elapse after the famine of 1943, we have to face another famine of perhaps greater magnitude and intensity. In examining the causes of the last famine, the Famine Enquiry Commission has remarked "We cannot avoid the conclusion that it lay in the power of the Government of Bengal by bold, resolute and well-conceived measures at the right time to have largely prevented the tragedy of the famine as it actually took place." We had hoped, Sir—and we hoped against hope in spite of the communal composition of this Ministry—that the lessons of 1943 would not perhaps be lost on them and bold, resolute and well-conceived measures would be coming at the right time. I confess with dismay that disillusionment came too soon; we found in the behaviour of the present Government an almost exact repetition of the same old behaviour that brought about the disaster in 1943. When the first symptoms of famine appeared this time, the Government instead of becoming careful, began, as of old, issuing complacent statements. On 29th March, 1946, Mr. S. K. Chatterji, Director General of Food, Bengal, said that the deficit would be to the extent of only 7 per cent. of our total requirement and "if everyone in the Province instead of taking his accustomed meal took only 1 chhatak and a quarter less in every seer of 16 chhataks, this saving itself would wipe off the deficit." "Government wish to make it quite certain that there shall be no famine this year", repeated Mr. Chatterji on 30th May, 1946; "1946 is not 1943" was his trumpet-blast. On 14th June, 1946, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy declared at a Press Conference—I notice that he is absent from the House today when such an important adjournment motion is being discussed on the floor of the House—"Government wish to make it clear that if the public faced the position with confidence"—he did not tell us, Sir, how the public can have confidence in almost the same set of people responsible for the 1943 tragedy and even now behaving in the same old way—well "if the public faced the position with confidence, Bengal could avert the danger of famine." "The reason for panic was", he added, "the greed of the profiteers and the desire to hoard as much as possible." It is the same old device of shifting the entire blame on the profiteers with the difference that there was no assurance this time of searching under the *taktaposhes*. Though meant for home consumption, these statements have done immense harm abroad and have created the impression that matters are not very serious here. In fact, Sir Robert Hutchings, the Food Secretary to the Government of India, has openly said on June 7, 1946, that "Bengal would be self-sufficient this year". But what was the actual situation? Not only there was an over-all deficit, but in some places rice was totally

unavailable. I need not take up the time of the House by reading out the series of press reports as also the reports daily pouring in into our office, but suffice it to say, that starvation on a fairly wide scale has already begun. There are large areas where people are living on *kachu* and jack-fruits. It is now well-established that one Hacha Shaikh died of starvation in Netrokona; a report published in the Calcutta Press on 16th May, 1946, stated that the dead body found near the Ration Office at Eden Gardens was examined by the police and it was admitted in the *post-mortem* certificate that the death was due to starvation. Shri Rajanikanta Pramanik, a Congress member of this House, stated in a public statement that Bepin Das of Parbatipur (Midnapur) committed suicide by hanging on account of starvation. A mother at Bankura attempted to strangle her own baby, being unable to endure the pangs of hunger (*Hindusthan Standard*, 30th May, 1946). Many such reports have been published in the Press and have gone uncontradicted so far. Then, again, Sir, the usual flow of destitutes has begun, as also the mass exodus from villages in search of food elsewhere.

Well, what is the real situation where rice is supposed to be available? In the completely rationed areas the price for coarse rice is fixed at Rs. 10. I have here, Sir, a few samples of coarse rice and if you examine them you will be convinced that it requires a bovine stomach, not a human one, to assimilate them. The price for the medium grade is Rs. 15, though in reality this is the coarse rice. How many middle-class families are in a position now to pay such high prices? But the situation is far more serious in non-rationed areas. Even the Government had to admit—Mr. S. K. Chatterjee had to admit as late as the 13th instant—that the usual rate in non-rationed areas now is about Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per maund, though there are areas where the price is as high as Rs. 21-4. Everyone knows that these figures have no connection with realities. Even Mr. Akbar Ali, M.L.A. (a member of the Government Party), has openly confirmed that allegation in a public statement. But even accepting Government figures, we might ask, and ask legitimately, are these prices within the reach of the common people? Starvation is a certainty if prices remain at that level and if these things continue, the people of Bengal would be found obliging the present Government not by eating a *chatak* less but by eliminating the problem of their feeding altogether by quitting the land of living.

Why have things come to such a pass? Things have come to such a pass because an irresponsible and callous Government have deliberately allowed things to come to such a pass. The deficit is to the extent of 7 per cent.—it can be met by internal economies alone—that was the burden of their song. I shall not take the House through the maze of figures but the report published by the Bengal Congress Assembly Party states that the deficit is not 7 per cent. but 20 per cent. of our total requirement. On the basis of a population of 65 millions there will be thus no food for 13 millions. Yet it is strange that when the situation is so grave and even the Food Director, Bengal, had estimated the deficit to be 7 per cent. or 750,000 tons, Mr. Hoover said that according to his calculations with which the Government of India are in full agreement—mark his words—the outside help Bengal requires this year would be only 302,000 tons. Who is responsible for this gross under-estimate? Why the Bengal Government have not come forward with any contradiction? Would it be wrong to assume that the Bengal Government are not serious about combating famine or about securing imports from outside?

Then, Sir, what is the stock position? In a public statement published by the Press on 19th July, 1946, I have challenged the Government to deny if the figures they gave out at the recent conference of District Officers and District Food Controllers at the Government House do not reveal that the stocks in hand are sufficient to meet the needs of the rationed areas for three months from the 1st July and the need of non-rationed areas for five weeks from the 1st July. Even this supply can be maintained if rice is supplied only to high price areas and there only to the one-third of the population,

viz., "A" class ration-card holders and to them again at the rate of 2 seers per adult per week and 1 seer per child. That means "non-high price" areas will be left out, B and C class ration-card holders would also be left to their fate and even the A class would receive rations at a rate much below the minimum nutritional standard. What is this if it is not a famine?

Yet the Government have not woken up to their sense of responsibility. I shall not, Sir, recount in details every point of the Food plan adumbrated by this party but I shall speak today about three points in particular. The first point is that there must be imports on a substantial scale. In spite of what might be said by a Director whom the Calcutta High Court thought unfit to hold the post of even a District Magistrate, such a huge gap cannot be closed by internal economies alone. We might say that had the Government of Bengal been active at the proper moment, the thin trickle of imports could have turned into a big stream by now. But what is more important is that the present inefficient, corrupt and communal system of distribution should be at once scrapped. The unofficial U. S. Food Mission, the Food Adviser to the Government of India—all of them have been unanimous in their condemnation of Bengal Government. The famine Enquiry Commission recommended that all towns with a population of 25,000 and over should be put on complete rationing. What is it but stark inefficiency, if the Bengal Government have not yet been able to put this suggestion into effect? Is it not a fact that one of the reasons why the Government of India have shown preference to Madras over Bengal, is that Madras has far more extensive rationing than Bengal? Well, Sir, it is well-known today that the whole system is inefficient, corrupt and communal. The entire system is run under the fiat of officers—we all know what type of officers—without the least vestige of popular supervision and control. Why is it, Sir, that the Union Food Committees have become, as a rule, the bottlenecks of corruption? Why is it that even Government officers not only share the booty, but what is amazing, break the law, with impunity and encourage black-marketing with written official orders. Here is one instance. It is an order by the Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Basirhat, and runs thus:—

"GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

OFFICE OF THE SUBDIVISIONAL CONTROLLER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, BASIRHAT.

Memo. No. 2239/11/X-5.

Basirhat, the 14th June, 1946.

To

- (1) Messrs. H. P. Dalal, (2) Messrs. G. B. Sen, (3) Messrs. A. C. Pal, (4) Messrs. P. N. Basu, (5) Messrs. J. N. Kundu, (6) Messrs. Md. Ibrahim Mondol, (7) Messrs. A. K. Banerji, (8) Messrs. B. C. Bose, (9) Messrs. D. N. Nath, (10) Messrs. S. A. Mahbub, (11) Messrs. A. Sayed (Licensees of F. G. Rice and Paddy, Basirhat).

Until further orders, you are exempted from issuing cash memo. This preference is granted to you, subject to good conduct, failing which your licences will be immediately cancelled.

Sd. Illegible,

Subdivisional Controller of Civil Supplies, Basirhat."

What is this if it is not a direct and official encouragement of black-marketing? How dare an officer issue such an order unless he is confident that he has nothing to fear from higher quarters? That is an indication of the extent of corruption in the present Government. Then, what about communalism? Is it not a fact that dealers are selected on communal grounds, even when they have no sufficient capital for the necessary deposit and cannot, as a result, take delivery of rice for areas they are supposed to serve?

Why is it that fishermen of Chandpur and Namasudras of Dacca have been excluded from food supplies in favour of Muslims? Is it not a fact that a multi-purpose co-operative society has been allowed to function in Kishoreganje under official patronage on the apparent plea of food supply, though it is in reality an agency of communalism and an instrument for oppression? Why is it that the ration shops in Munshiganj are, as a rule, exempted from check, if they are owned by Muslims? Why is it that in appointment, distribution of patronage and so on, communalism is the sole guiding policy, even when the common people have to suffer? On 5th July, 1945, the *Basumati* published the story of a Muslim officer in the Audit Branch of the Rationing Department who started, with the girl employees of the Department as members, a club for spreading sex knowledge with very bad consequences. Has any action been taken against him?

Sir, the time at my disposal is short. It is said that the epics of Homer took a few years to recite, but the great epic of the misdeeds of the Bengal Government will take decades for recital *in extenso*. I shall not therefore make that effort. But in conclusion, I like to touch briefly on another subject and that is procurement. It is now well-known that procurement has failed. Well, Sir, it is bound to fail. The first pre-requisites of successful procurement are the ability of the Government to feed the entire people all through and the faith of the people in that ability. We can assert without any fear of contradiction that those pre-requisites are completely absent here. The honourable members of the Communist Group have suggested that there should be almost monopoly procurement. The Government, I understand, are also contemplating of introducing a selective requisitioning scheme under which all stocks above 250 maunds will be requisitioned. I make it clear that we certainly urge upon the Government to deal with a heavy hand all big stockists who have so long been allowed as a matter of fact to thrive with Government connivance. But we are equally firm in our opinion that unless the Government set their own house in order they have no right and they will not succeed in their effort to demand of the people their little stock of food.

I started by saying that this motion has not been moved to make any political capital for the situation is too grave and food in our opinion is always a matter above party politics. But from the facts of the situation we are constrained to say that it is the Government who have taken this opportunity to turn food into a matter of their party politics and to utilise this occasion to consolidate the Muslim League in Bengal at the cost of the lives of millions of Moslems and Hindus. We say, Sir, the Government have been toying with human lives. Is it not a fact that one of the very highest officers of Bengal said at the Conference of District Officers and Food Controllers held at the Government House that "there is a real danger of Bengal talking herself into a famine"? That is the attitude that governs the Bengal Government today. I say, Sir, that such a monstrous statement in the face of the grim and impending tragedy can go unpunished only in a subject country like India. Had it been a free country, a person making such a statement would have been not only compelled to forego his Rs. 10,000 or so every month but have had to undergo public trial for such callous, irresponsible and nonsensical statements. The Congress is always prepared to lend a helping hand in combating the famine, but it will certainly have nothing to do with the Government so long as they are not intent upon initiating a real anti-famine programme but continue this present corrupt and communal policy. The Congress will be happy to work out, in common with the Government, a Food Plan, provided that such a Food Plan really aims at serving the people. But if the Government in their intoxication of power—artificial power, supplied from the power-house of Clive Street, though it is—try to play the game of communalism and corruption—

(Here the red light was lit.)

One minute, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The rule is very rigid in this matter. I am sorry I cannot allow you more time.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: I have almost finished.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you have finished your speech. In this matter I will have to be very strict. I hope you will excuse me.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : মানবীয় Speaker মহোদয়। আমার নিজের এ বিষয়ে একটি মূলত্ববী প্রস্তাব ছিল কিন্তু সেই মূলত্ববী প্রস্তাবটি মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়ের মন্তব্যবশত সার্থক হয় নাই। অতএব সেই প্রস্তাবটি আমার পক্ষে পেশ করা সম্ভব হয় নাই। সেই প্রস্তাবটি এইরূপ ছিল :—

“This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, distress, panic and almost famine conditions prevailing at present in many parts of Bengal due to the continued rise in the price of rice and paddy due to inefficiency in the system of distribution of these two articles from Government godowns resulting in irregular supply even of the insufficient ration prescribed under the modified rationing scheme on the one hand and in gradual increment of black-marketing with its attendant evils of bribery and corruption on the other.”

এই প্রস্তাবটি.....

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: On a point of order. Can an honourable member who speaks English speak in any other language?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid he used Bengali language always in the last Assembly.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : আমি বাংলায় বলতে পারি—ভাল ইংরাজী বলতে পারি না।

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: On a point of order. Is the honourable member in order to speak about his own motion which has been disallowed? He is speaking on another motion that has been disallowed.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is on the same subject but he is using the language of his own motion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : এই প্রস্তাবে যে ৫টা বিষয়ের উল্লেখ আছে তার প্রথম বিষয়টি এই যে বাংলায় বর্তমানে বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে দারুণ দুঃখ, দুর্দশা, হাহাকার দেখা দিয়েছে। কিন্তু অকস্মাৎ কেন এইরূপ দেখা দিল তা আমাদের পরিষ্কার করে বোঝা উচিত। আমরা জানি গত ১৯৪৩ ও ১৯৪৪ সালে বাংলায় অনাহার ও নানাবিধ বোঝে ভুগে প্রায় ৫০ লক্ষ লোক মারা গিয়েছে। এর পরেও কোন রকমে বাজারীরা বেঁচে ছিল। তাদের দু'বেলা পেট ভরে খাওয়া জোটে নাই, চিকিৎসায় কোন ওষুধ মিলেনি, তবুও কোন রকমে বাংলার পল্লী অঞ্চলের দরিদ্র কৃষিজীবী ও অন্য বৃত্তিজীবীরা বেঁচে ছিল। তারপর ১৯৪৬ সালেও জিনিষপত্রের দাম এমনভাবে বাড়তে লাগল যে চালের দাম যেখানে ১৮৭/১৯৭/২০৭ টাকার মধ্যে ছিল সেই চালের দাম অকস্মাৎ বাড়তে বাড়তে ২০৭/২৫৭/৩০৭ টাকা, এমন কি ৪০৭ টাকা পর্যন্ত হয়ে গেল। ফলে বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে হাহাকার লেগে গেল।

আমার বাড়ী মাদারীপুর অঞ্চলে। গত ২৪শে মে আমি বাড়ী গিয়েছিলাম। বাড়ী যাওয়ার পর আমার গ্রামের লোকেরা একটামাত্র কথা আমাকে বলেছে—বাবু, আমরা তো আবার মরলাম। চালের দাম মণপ্রতি ৩০৭ টাকা পর্যন্ত হয়েছে। আমি ৪৫ দিন গ্রামে থাকি—তখনও দেখি চালের দর বাড়ছে—বাড়তে বাড়তে ৩৪৭ টাকা পর্যন্ত হয়, কমার কোন লক্ষণ নাই। আমি Civil Supply Inspectorএর কাছে যাই, Circle Officer এবং থানা অফিসারের কাছে যাই। গিয়ে তাঁদের বলি—Modified rationing scheme যা অন্যান্য অঞ্চলে প্রবর্তিত হয়েছে তা আমাদের এই অঞ্চলে কেন জারি হয়নি? আমি সেবলাম Civil Supply Inspector এ বিষয়ে সম্পূর্ণ উদাসীন। তাঁর চোখের সম্মুখে লোকে না বেয়ে মরছে, কিন্তু তার এ সম্বন্ধে কোন ভাবনা চিন্তা নেই। তিনি শুধু তার মাহিনা পেতেই ব্যস্ত। লোককে জিজ্ঞাসা করলে তারা বলে—কি ক'রে হবে, তিনি temporary officer, তাঁর চাকরী ত পাকা নয়, তিনি শুঁড়িয়ে নেবার চেটায় আছেন। তারপর wholesalerএর কাছে গেলাম, সেখানায় এ নিয়ে তাঁরও কোন উদ্বেগ নাই। তিনি বললেন আমরা চার আনা মণপ্রতি দাত পাই

অন্য কারবার করলে আমাদের এর চেয়ে বেশী লাভ হয়। আর যারা distributor তাদের ত কোন লাভাই নাই। এভাবে দেখলাম দিনের পর দিন লোকে না খেয়ে অনাহারে মরছে—সর্বত্র হাহাকার। কোন রকম প্রতি-কারের চেষ্টা কোথাও নেই। তারপর আমি গ্রামের লোকদের সংগ্রহ করে বললাম—আমার কাছে এলে কি হবে? যাও wholesale dealerদের কাছে, যাও distributorদের কাছে। গিয়ে তাদের জিজ্ঞাসা কর কেন চাল দেওয়া হয় না। তারপর জনগণের চাপে পড়ে চাল দেওয়া আরম্ভ হ'ল। প্রতি সপ্তাহে মাত্র ৫০০ মণ চাল দেওয়া হয়। আমাদের Naria Unionএ প্রায় বাষট্টি হাজার লোকের বাস। Modified Rationing Scheme অনুসারে সেখানে যদি প্রতি সপ্তাহে A, B, C, সকল শ্রেণীর লোককে চাল দেওয়া হয়, তাহ'লে মাসে ১,৫৪৬ মণ চালের দরকার। ধান দেওয়া হ'লে দরকার ২,৩১৯ মণ। শুধু A Groupকে যদি দেওয়া হয় তাহ'লে মাসে প্রায় ৭০০ মণ চালের দরকার। কিন্তু দেখতে পেলাম আশ্চর্যের বিষয়, যেখানে চালের মণ ছিল ৩৪,১৩৫ টাকা সেখানে শুধু এক সপ্তাহ দেওয়ার ফলেই চালের দাম কমে ২৪,১২৫ টাকা হয়ে গেল এবং জনগণের মনে যে হাহাকার ও ভীতি জেগে উঠেছিল তা দেখতে দেখতে দূব হয়ে গেল। সকলে জানলে এইভাবেও যদি চাল দেওয়া হয় তাহলে হয়ত তারা খেয়ে পরে বেঁচে থাকতে পারবে। এই ঘটনার দিকে Civil Supply Inspector এবং wholesale dealerদের দৃষ্টি বাববার আকর্ষণ করে আমি তাদের বলি প্রতি সপ্তাহে যেন এইভাবে চাল দেওয়া হয়। প্রতি সপ্তাহে এভাবে চাল দিলে দেখতে দেখতে যে চোরা-বাজারে চালের দর কমে যায় এটা আমরা ভালভাবে দেখেছি। জনগণের মন খেঁকেও তাস দূব হয়ে যায়। কিন্তু কোন প্রকার চেষ্টাই চললো না। ফলে দেখা গেল পবেব সপ্তাহে আর কাক আছে, না wholesalerএর কাছে, না Distributorএর কাছে, চাল নাই। ফলে পরের সপ্তাহে ধান দেওয়া হ'ল। তার পর সপ্তাহে দেখা গেল কারও কাছে কিছু নেই, না ধান, না চাল। তিন চার দিন আগে আমি আবার বাড়ী গিয়েছিলাম, তখন আমি খেঁজ নিয়ে জানলাম যে ইতিমধ্যে যেখানে ৭ বার চাল দেওয়া দরকার ছিল, সেখানে মাত্র ৩ বার চাল দেওয়া হয়েছে। সেখানে যদি ঠিকমত চাল দেওয়া হ'ত তাহ'লে ৪,৯০০ মণ চাল দেওয়া দরকার হ'ত। কিন্তু তার বদলে ৩ বারে দেওয়া হয়েছে মাত্র বিশ শত মণ চাল। ফ'লে আবার চালের দর বেড়ে গেছে; চারিদিকে হাহাকার দেখা দিয়েছে। আমি কলিকাতায় ফিরে এসে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে ও Civil Supply Ministerএর কাছে ব'লেছিলাম—যদি আপনি চান জনগণ বেঁচে থাকুক, যদি আপনি চান ১৯৪৩ সালের দু'ভিক্ষা আবার মাথা উঠুক তবে না উঠুক তাহ'লে তাব প্রতিকার এখনই করা উচিত। Modified rationing scheme অনুসারে প্রতি সপ্তাহে যাতে লোক বীতিমত চাল পায় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। শুধু A Classএর লোকদের দিলেই চলবে না। B ও C Classএরও অনেকে অসমর্থ, তাদের জন্যও ব্যবস্থা করুন। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি করেছেন আমি জানি না। আমি সম্প্রতি গ্রামে গিয়ে দেখলাম কোন ব্যবস্থাই এ পর্যন্ত হয় নাই। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে আমার একটা suggestion ছিল যে, প্রত্যেক ধানায় ধানায় যদি চালের গুদাম করেন, তাহ'লে চালের বণ্টন-ব্যবস্থা ভাল হয়, এবং জনগণও সহজে চাল পেতে পারে। বর্তমান ব্যবস্থায় ভালভাবে কাজ চলা অসম্ভব। এখন নড়িয়া অঞ্চলে ২০।২৫ মাইল দূরে চরমুণ্ডিয়ায় সরকারী গুদাম, ৮।৯ মাইল দূরে আঙ্গারিয়ার সরকারী গুদামে চাল আছে। এই সব গুদাম হতে wholesalerদের নড়িয়া অঞ্চলে চাল আনার কথা, কিন্তু চাল কখনো ঠিকমত পৌঁছায় না। প্রতি ধানায় যদি গুদাম থাকে এবং এই সব গুদাম হতে প্রতি সপ্তাহে যদি জনগণকে চাল দেওয়া যায় তাহ'লে চালের দাম চোরাবাজারে কম থাকে। আমি বর্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার কোন সমালোচনা করতে চাই না, আমি শুধু এই চাই যে, আমাদের দেশের প্রিয় ভাই বোনরা যেন ১৯৪৩ সালের মত আবার না খেয়ে না মরে। তাই আজ আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে সানুনে বলছি তিনি এখনই প্রতি ধানায় ধানায় যেখানে দুঃখ দুর্দশা দেখা দিয়েছে সেখানে চালের গুদাম করুন এবং সেখান থেকে সকলে যাতে চাল নিতে পারে, তার ব্যবস্থা করুন এবং চালের যে সামান্য বরাদ্দ বর্তমানে আছে তাই যাতে জনগণ প্রতি সপ্তাহে ঠিকমত পেতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। যদি তা না করেন আমি দৃঢ়ভাবে বলতে পারি ১৯৪৩ সালে যে রূপ দু'ভিক্ষা দেখা দিয়েছিল তার চেয়েও ভীষণ দু'ভিক্ষা এবাব দেখা দিবে। সেবার চাল গভর্নমেন্টের গুদামে পড়ে গিয়েছে তবুও জনগণ চাল খেতে পায়নি। এবাবও ৮।৯ মাইল দূরবর্তী সরকারী গুদামে চাল পড়ে যাচ্ছে কিন্তু Civil Supply Department ও wholesalerদের ওদাসীন্য বশতঃ নড়িয়ার জনগণ চাল পাচ্ছে না। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করছি—ধানায় ধানায় সরকারী গুদাম করুন। কিন্তু মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছেন যে ধানায় ধানায় গুদাম করলে অনেক খরচ হবে; অনেক লোকের দরকার হবে। উত্তবে আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলেছিলাম—মানুষের যখন জীবন নিয়ে টানাটানি তখন সামান্য টাকার জন্য ভাববেন না। আপনারা তো কত প্রকারে কোটি কোটি টাকা অপব্যয় করছেন। এতদিন বড় বিশেষ কিছু করেন নি, এখন অনতিবিলম্বে যে সব অগ্রগণ্য দুঃখ দুর্দশা দেখা দিয়েছে সেই সব অঞ্চলের ধানায় ধানায়

গুদাম স্থাপন করুন। ধানার লোকের জন্য প্রতি সপ্তাহে যে পরিমাণ চাল দরকার সেই পরিমাণ চাল ধানার গুদামে সর্বদা মজুত রাখুন। এবং সহজে যাতে সেই চাল সকলের মধ্যে বিলি হতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। তাহ'লেই জনগণকে বাঁচাতে পারবেন। ১৯৪৩ সালে আপনারা যে অপচয় করেছিলেন—সেটা আর করবেন না। সরকারী গুদামে চাল পচবে আর জনগণ না বেয়ে মরবে এ একেবারে অসহ্য। আমি storing বা procurement সম্বন্ধে কিছু বললাম না। কারণ এসবের দায়িত্ব বিরোধীদের নহে, গভর্নমেন্টের আমরা জানি বণ্টন-ব্যবস্থা ঠিকমত চালানো হলে গভর্নমেন্ট procurement ঠিকমত করতে বাধ্য হবেন, storing ঠিকমত করবেন। আমরা চাই distribution যেন ঠিকমত চলে, আমরা চাই আমাদের প্রিয় ভাইবোনেরা যেন না বেয়ে না মবে। তাই আমি Governmentকে সানুনেয় অনুরোধ করছি এ বিষয়ে অবিলম্বে অবহিত হোন এবং ধানায় ধানায় সরকারী গুদাম করে জনগণকে চাল দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা ক'রে দিন। এই ব'লে আমি এই মূলত্বী প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করছি।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I am glad that I have got an opportunity to speak on this occasion on this adjournment motion. The motion that has been tabled from the Opposition can be split up into three parts: it raises three definite specific questions. The first question is whether the Government has failed in keeping the price of rice down; secondly, in maintaining adequate supply of rice in the province; and thirdly, in consequence of the failure a great calamity has come over the whole province of Bengal.

With regard to the rise in price I would state that it has got to be admitted that prices of rice and other foodgrains have considerably increased, not only in Bengal but in other parts of India. For this rise in price there are many reasons. The first reason is—and I think it cannot be denied—that there has been inflation of money as many as four times in India during the last four years.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: In your pocket!

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: So far as the facts and figures are concerned, I hope many members will agree to that. Many members may hold different views about that matter. But the question is, now that there is inflation of money, whether it is within the competence of any Government to keep down the prices. According to economic laws the prices of commodities should go up as many times as there are inflations. According to that calculation the price of every commodity is bound to rise up to four times of the pre-war level. That is one view of the matter.

Regarding the supply of rice, anyway the honourable the mover assumes that supply is being maintained no doubt, but his complaint is with regard to the quantum to the effect that in the needy areas sufficient quantity is not supplied according to the demand of consumers.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. My contention was that there are areas in which there is no supply and there are areas in which the supply is maintained but the arrangement for supply in those areas is corrupt, inefficient and communal. That is my contention.

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, if I have read the resolution in the original motion, it runs thus: "This Assembly do now stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the acute distress that has come to prevail in the different parts of Bengal owing to the failure of the Government of Bengal to reduce the abnormally high prices and to maintain adequate supply of rice." It does not mean that there is no supply in any part of the province. If I have read it correctly, it means that supply is being

maintained but that is not adequate in all parts of the province. In that view of the matter it sometimes happens that supply is not adequate. I do not deny that there are reasons for that. There are transshipment difficulties in the present day and transhipped consignments do not reach their destination within the expected period of time. But as soon as the consignment arrives the situation is considerably eased.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: For that the Government is responsible.

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Government is responsible to the extent which is within their means, but they cannot be held responsible if it is beyond their control.

My friend the honourable the mover made a complaint that a trouble has arisen in Kishoreganj subdivision with regard to the Multi-Purposes Society and the failure of the Government on that account. I come from the district of Mymensingh and I know something of the Multi-Purposes Society. I know how the Society is working there. With regard to that I would mention here for the information of the House that the Multi-Purposes Society in Kishoreganj area is working well. The only difficulty that has been caused has been caused to some section of the people, particularly the non-Muslims who had the monopoly of certain trade within that area. Sir, the Multi-Purposes Society is registered under the Indian Companies Act and its small shares have been distributed to ordinary cultivators; and that subdivision being populated mostly by Muslims the largest number of shares have gone to the Muslims. The Controlling Civil Supply Officers there have been distributing all commodities of food supply to the village areas through village agencies, most of whom are Muslims. It is on that account that some grievance is being made by some section of the people who had the monopoly before and who are not Muslims. That monopoly has no doubt been broken. Otherwise I have not heard of any serious complaint with regard to the working of the Multi-Purposes Society. No question of communalism, therefore, Sir, arises. Having regard to the fact that the Muslim population of that part of the subdivision is about 90 *per cent.*, it is only natural that largest number of Muslim shareholders will have their share in the distribution of the commodities.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: On a point of information, Sir. Is the honourable member speaking on behalf of the Government?

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: I am speaking on behalf of my constituency and of my district, and I am also placing facts before the House.

Sir, the next question is, how far the Government can be held responsible. As I have already said, there has been some rise in prices during the last two months. The Ministry came into office, as every honourable member knows, only on the 25th of April last. So it is barely three months today. And before that, in Bengal, as everybody knows, the dry season begins in January and poor cultivators bring rice and paddy during the months of January, February, March and April, into the market, for that is the period for making purchases in Bengal market but at that time the administration of the country was under the permanent officials of the Bengal Government under the 93 régime and that Government set up a particular machinery called the Procurement Organisation, and in my humble opinion that organisation totally failed to make adequate purchases during the dry season of the year. But when this Ministry came into power it was already late and in that view of the matter Government could not get paddy and rice. (A MEMBER FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES: What steps did the Government take?) What steps Government have taken, of course, that is not for me to state, for the Ministers and Secretaries are there and they will certainly enlighten the House. So far as we know, the Ministers and particularly the Hon'ble Chief Minister made strenuous efforts to ease the

situation and as a result of their three months' work we find today that the situation has considerably eased both in respect of supply as well as in respect of prices. Our opinion is, as every one of the honourable members of the House knows, that prices have considerably gone down in different parts of the province.

Lastly, I would suggest to the Hon'ble Minister for what it is worth a short period policy of supplying urgent requirements, particularly in needy areas. If the Hon'ble Minister in charge keeps before him a relief map fixing on it flags indicating, say, 5,000 or 10,000 maunds of paddy and each flag indicating a district and if the Hon'ble Minister gets any report of any distress in any particular area, he can at once place his finger on the particular spot and direct the particular agency there to make immediate supply from that store to the needy area. That I think will be useful if the Hon'ble Minister and his department consider it worthwhile.

With regard to the spirit in which the honourable member from the Opposition has brought this motion, I naturally presume he has brought this motion with a view to help and co-operate with the administration and to serve the people who are really in distress and are suffering, and members sitting on this side of the House are certainly no less anxious than the members on the other side to help and co-operate with the people of the Province. I would, therefore, request the members of the House belonging to different parties and groups to come forward with a spirit of help and co-operation and good feelings to assist the present Government of the Province so that they can tide over the present difficulties by helping the needy and the suffering masses with their requirements. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Do they want it?) If I remember correctly, at the outset when the Hon'ble Ministers took their offices, the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a very clear and unambiguous statement that he sought the co-operation of not only all well-wishers of this province but of the best brains of other parts of the country. (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: By words, not by deeds.) At least I, for one, thought that the Hon'ble Minister really meant what he said. Of course, if honourable members of the Opposition have discovered other things in it by private talk, that is not for me to say. (Laughter.)

In the end I would offer my thanks to honourable members of the House for giving a patient hearing to my maiden speech today. Sir, with these words I resume my seat.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আলোচ্য মূলত্বীয় প্রস্তাবের সমর্থনে কিছু বলবার জন্য আমি দাঁড়িয়েছি। প্রস্তাবের সমর্থনে আমার যা বক্তব্য তা বলবার পূর্বে আমার পূর্ববর্তী বক্তা বর্তমান মন্ত্রীদেব সাফাই গেয়ে যে কথা বলেছেন সেই কথা শুনতে শুনতে আমার মনে হ'ল (Several voices: কবিতা, কবিতা) যে এই মন্ত্রীদেব গুণ গাইতে হ'লে আমার মত কবির কর্ণ নয়। যদি কবীন্দ্র রবীন্দ্র নাথ আজ বেঁচে থাকতেন তাহ'লে একটা লেখার মত লেখা হত। (A voice: চোপা করুন) ও ধানের বন্ধু কবিতা শুনতে চাচ্ছেন, মানুষ কত বড় হতে পারে তাব কল্পনায় তাঁদের স্বজাতীয় সম্রাট সাজাহানকে নিয়ে কবীন্দ্র রবীন্দ্র নাথ যে অমূল্য কবিতা রচনা করেছেন, তাঁরই অনুকরণে আমি দুটি কথা বলবার চেষ্টা করব। খুঁটাতা মার্জনা করবেন। সাজাহান কত বড় ছিলেন—মানুষ কত বড় হতে পারে—তাঁর চিত্র দেখাতে গিয়ে তিনি তাঁর তাজমহলের সাজাহান চরিত্র সম্বন্ধে বলেছিলেন—

“তোমার কীত্তির চেয়ে তুমি যে মহৎ,

তাই তব জীবনের রথ,

পশ্চাতে ফেলিয়া যায় কীত্তিরে তোমার বারবার।”

আজ যদি তিনি বেঁচে থাকতেন, তবে বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কু-কীত্তি নিয়ে তিনি লিখতেন,—

তোমার কু-কীত্তি হ'তে তুমি যে কর্দা,

তাই তব জীবনের কার্ঘ্য,

পশ্চাতে ফেলিয়া যায়—কু-কীত্তি তোমার বারবার।

(Cheers!)

কুংসিং ককাজে,
লাজ দানি লাজে,
আজো ওগো মিশিতেছ
লোকের সমাজে
ঐ বর্ণচোকা সাজে।

খেলিতেছ ল্যাজে,
আব বকিতেছ বাজে।

বিক্রীত যে নিজে,
দাঁড়ে বসা পাখী,
কপচাও শিখান বুলি॥
পেয়ে ছোলা ভিজে।
এ বিশেষ মাঝে,
তোমাব তুলনা তুমি
দোসব কোথাও হয়—

নাহি পাই খুঁজে॥ (Loud cheers!)

তাই বলছি—এই কীর্তি গাওয়া আমার মুখে বা আমার কলমে হয় না। এই কুকীর্তি গাইতে পারে কবীন্দ্রের
ত শক্তিমান কবি। এদের কুকীর্তি ব্যবহার পূর্বের বেকর্ড ছাড়িয়ে যাচ্ছে।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজকেব আলোচ্য সম্বন্ধে প্রধান বক্তব্য, বাংলাব মনুস্তরী দুর্ভিক্ষের পর আজও বাংলায়
এই খাদ্যাভাব থাকায় যে নিদারুণ অবস্থা ঘটেছে সেটা আজ আব কথা কাটাকাটিব বিষয় নয়, অবস্থা কি তা
শ্রুত্যে প্রাণে প্রাণে অনুভব করছেন। একটা সামান্য দুর্ভিক্ষই মানুষের ব্যক্তিগত জীবনে, সমাজ জীবনে ও
ঐক্যনৈতিক জীবনে এমন একটা বিবট ওলট-পালট এনে দিয়ে যায় যে তাব ধাক্কা সহজে সামলান যায় না।
এটা সামান্য দুর্ভিক্ষ নয়—মহা দুর্ভিক্ষ—বহুবেব ওপব বছর বাংলাব উপব রয়েছে। তাব প্রতিকারেব প্রয়োজনীয়
শ্রুচেষ্টা না করে যারা আজও মন্ত্রিষেব গদিতে বসে থাকেন তাঁদের সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কিছু বলাব প্রয়োজন হয় না।
দুর্ভিক্ষ রয়েছে, খাদ্যাভাব রয়েছে—সে সম্বন্ধে আজকে আলোচনাব জন্য একটি পুস্তাব নিয়ে আসা হয়েছে।
যমার আগেকাব বন্ধু বলেছেন দাম অনেক কমেছে। তাঁর কি সম্বণ আছে—বাংলায় এমন কত লক্ষ লোক
রাছে—যারা টাকায় পঁচ সেব হলেও চাল কিনে খেতে পারে না। পনের টাকা চাঁলেব দর, তা কয়জন
কিনে খেতে পারে? এ নিয়ে কথা কাটাকাটি করতে চাই না। বোগ সাবাতে হলে রোগ হওয়াব হেতু প্রথমে
দাবিকার করাব প্রয়োজন। যে কারণে বোগ হয়েছে তাব মূল হেতু যদি ধবতে না পাবি তাহলে বোগ আরোগ্য
ধবতে পারব না। আজ বাংলায় খাদ্যাভাব ও খাদ্যেব দাম বাড়ি কেন? মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ও আরও
বাকারের বড় বড় মুখপাত্র যারা তাঁরা বাংলাব খাদ্য সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ বিশেষ বাণী প্রচার কবেছেন—statement
দিয়েছেন, মূল কারণ হচ্ছে এই। অনেকে বলেন যে কংগ্রেসের দল বা একদল এই মন্ত্রিষকে লোকের কাছে
হয় প্রতিপন্ন করার জন্য চেষ্টা করছে এবং panic সৃষ্টি করছে। যদি তাই হয় তাহলে এর কারণ কি?
তাই দেখাই (A voice : দেখাই না, শুনাই) প্রথম হচ্ছেন যিনি ভাবতের ভাগ্যবিধাতা, ভাবতের ভাগ্যচক্রে
প্রধান গ্রহ অর্থাৎ Viceroy তিনি ১৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারীতে বলেছিলেন, “We are three million tons
short of our requirements and the world shortage of grains is such that we
cannot hope for imports of this magnitude.”

যেদিন ফেব্রুয়ারী মাসে বড়লাট সাহেব এই ঘোষণা কবলেন, ধান চালের দর বিভিন্ন জেলায় বেড়ে গেল।
দমস্ত বলবার সময় হবে না। সময় থাকলে দেখিয়ে দিতাম কে কতটা দারী। এই statement হ’ল ১৬ই
ফেব্রুয়ারী—তারপর চালের দর বাড়তে বাড়তে কেমন করে বর্তমানে কোথায় কতটায় এসেছে শুনুন। ঢাকায়
মুন্সিগঞ্জে ফেব্রুয়ারী মাসেব প্রথম সপ্তাহে চালের দর ১৮ টাকা ছিল, জুন মাসেব শেষে দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩২.১৩৮ টাকা।
ত্রিপুরায় ফেব্রুয়ারী প্রথমে চালের দর ছিল ২০ টাকা, কিন্তু Viceroy এর statement এর পর, জুন মাসেব
শেষ দিকের কথা বলছি—চালের দর দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩৮ টাকা। ফরিদপুরে ফেব্রুয়ারী প্রথমে ছিল ১৩.১১০ টাকা
চালের দর সেখানে Viceroy এর statement এর পর দর দাঁড়িয়েছে—২৯.১৩০ টাকা। এই গেল এক
নম্বর। Statement দ্বারা panic সৃষ্টি করে কারা? দুই নম্বর হ’ল বাংলা সরকার। আমাদের বাংলাব
খাদ্যবিধাতা হচ্ছেন Mr. S. K. Chatterjee। এঁর বিবতি হচ্ছেই বুধহতে পারবেন কেন দর উঠছে?

আমার বলবার প্রধান হেতু হ'ল—দর ওঠার ঠিক মূল কারণ যখন আজও দূর হয় নাই—এখনও famine সামনে, দর যে কোন সময়ে উঠে যেতে পারে। Mr. S. K. Chatterjee, Director-General of Food, বলেছেন—যাঁরা অন্য কারণ দেখান তাঁরা ভুল করে শুনুন, “The procurement of rice from 1st January, 1946, up to 6th April amounted to 256,000 tons. This was greater than the previous year's procurement during the same period by 166,000 tons.

এখন আপনাদের বিচার করতে হবে—যাঁরা জানেন। আমি ভুল করেই জানি। আমি যে জেলা থেকে এসেছি—সে জেলার নাম ঝাঁকুড়া জেলা—যেখানে সর্বত্র দুভিক্ষ। দেখুন সেখানে কি হয়েছে। ১৯৪৫ সালে সেখানে bumper crop হয়—সেই বৎসর সেখানে যত না procurement হয়েছিল এ বৎসর ধান কম হওয়াতেও procurement বেশী হয়েছে। ১৯৪৬ সালে বাংলায় ব্যাপকভাবে অধিকাংশ জায়গায় ধান কম হয়। কিন্তু এইবার সেই জায়গায় procurement হয় ১ লক্ষ ৪৬ হাজার টন বেশী। সেখানে intensive procurement হ'ল, সেখানে Government agentরা black marketing সৃষ্টি করল। কারণ আমাদের districtটা কাগজে কলমে surplus কিন্তু পাশে district deficit area। যেখানে আমাদের districtএ ১১ টাকা চালের দর ছিল, আমরা জানি surplus areaতে কেনা দর কম এবং deficit areaতে দর বেশী, সেখানে এক টাকা দুই টাকা বেশী দিয়েও intensive procurement policy of Bengal করা হয়েছিল। Director-General of Foodও তা স্বীকার করলেন যে ১৯৪৫ সালে যত না ক্রয় করেছিলেন ১৯৪৬ সালে তার চেয়ে বহু কম ফসল হওয়া সত্ত্বেও তাঁরা intensive procurement policy দ্বারা ক্রয় করেন ১ লক্ষ ৬০ হাজার টন বেশী। এই procurement policyর ফলে ধান-চালের দরও উঠতে থাকে। তার জন্য দায়ী কে? এই গভর্ণমেন্ট। এদিকে যে সময়ে এই intensive procurement চলছে, সেই সময়ে Mysore, Ceylon প্রভৃতি জায়গায় বাংলা থেকে চাল চালান হয়েছে—তাব প্রমাণ Government স্বীকৃতিতে রয়েছে। তাতে দেখা যায় এই intensive procurementএর কারণ কি।

আমি আর একটা বিষয় দেখাব। Government বেশ আনন্দে আছে, বাংলায় কোন অভাব নাই। আমার এতগুলি কথা বলবার কারণ এই যে যাতে বোণের কারণ নির্ণয় করতে পারি—যাতে বাংলার বুক থেকে চিরদিনের মত দুভিক্ষের কারণ চলে যায়। সারা বাংলায় এই ক্ষুধিত ও বঞ্চিত জনগণের অপরণে মন্ত্রিসভারী আজও যদি তার প্রকৃতি ও পরিণতি সম্বন্ধে ওয়াকিবহাল না হয়ে থাকেন—তবে আপনাদের বুদ্ধির বালাই নিয়ে মনতে হবে। যাক্। সরকারের আর একজন বড়কর্তা—তিনি হলেন Food Secretary of India। বাংলার এই খাদ্য পরিস্থিতির যারা ভাগ্যবিধাতা তাদের কোন দূরদৃষ্টি নাই। Sir Robert Hutchings, Food Secretary for India, বাংলা সম্বন্ধে বলেছেন, “Bengal would be self-sufficient this year and at any rate would not call on the Centre for help at present while it is still striving to save the people of Southern India. For the present we full intend to see.....”

এখানকার Governmentএর কর্ণধার যারা আছেন তাঁরা যা জানিয়েছেন—তাতে আমার বক্তব্য হচ্ছে আজ এদের হাতে বাংলার ৫১৬ কোটি নরনারীর জীবনকে ছেড়ে দিয়ে আমরা নিশ্চিত থাকতে পারি না (A voice : কে বললো?)। কার হাতে এই সমস্যার সমাধান হবে? এই S. K. Chatterjee তিনি বলেছেন—খাবার কমাও। এখানে একটা গল্পের কথা মনে পড়ছে। এক I. C. S. সাহেব ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট কোন গ্রামে আঙুন লাগাব পব তাদের অবস্থার তদন্ত করতে গিয়ে আঙুন লাগার কারণ জিজ্ঞাসা করেন উত্তরে জানেন যে খাবার জন্য রান্না করতে গিয়ে আঙুন লেগেছিল। সেটা প্রায় সন্ধ্যার সময়, অনেকবে সে সময়ে কিছু খেতে দেখে, সাহেব জিজ্ঞাসা করে এঁ যা খাচ্ছে তা রাঁধতে হয় না—উত্তর হয় “সাহেব ও পাস্তা খাচ্ছে, ও আব রাঁধতে হয় না”।

তিনি বললেন, “দোনো বেলা পোস্তা চালাও” কাজেই আঙুন আর লাগবে না। আর আমাদের বাংলাব কর্তারাও তেমনি সাধারণ লোককে বলছেন—তোমাদের diet কমাও। আজ আমাদের যারা বাংলার ভাগ্য-বিধাতা হয়ে অছি হয়ে এখানে এসেছেন—তাঁরা বাংলার কে কতটা চাকরী নিবেন—কে কতটা seat নেবেন এই নিয়ে ব্যস্ত। কিন্তু এটাই বাংলার মূল সমস্যা নয়। যারা অনাহারে অর্দ্ধাহারে মবেছে তাদের সেই ক্ষুধিত আঁখা আজ এর প্রতিকার দাবী করছে। ভবিষ্যৎ বাংলা এর কৈফিয়ৎ স্নদে মূলে আসায় করবে। আজ যারা বচারকের আসনে—ভাগ্যবিধাতার আসনে বসেছে, এর কৈফিয়ৎ দিয়ে সে আসন ছাড়তে হবে। সেবা বচারকের নিকট বাংলার ক্ষুধাকাতর কোটি কোটি নরনারীর কাতর আবেদন শুনুন—

কুংসিং ককাজে,
লাজ দানি লাজে,
আজো ওগো মিশিতেছ
লোকের সমাজে
ঐ বর্ণচোকা সাজে।

খেলিতেছ ল্যাজে,
আব বকিতেছ বাজে।

বিক্রীত যে নিজে,
দাঁড়ে বসা পাখী,
কপচাও শিখান বুলি॥
পেয়ে ছোলা ভিজে।
এ বিশ্বেষ মাঝে,
তোমাব তুলনা তুমি
দোসব কোথাও হয়—

নাহি পাই খুঁজে॥ (Loud cheers!)

তাই বলছি—এই কীর্তি গাওয়া আমার মুখে বা আমার কলমে হয় না। এই কুকীর্তি গাইতে পারে কবীন্দ্রের
ত শক্তিমান কবি। এদের কুকীর্তি ব্যবহার পূর্বের বেকর্ড ছাড়িয়ে যাচ্ছে।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজকেব আলোচ্য সম্বন্ধে প্রধান বক্তব্য, বাংলাব মনুস্তরী দুর্ভিক্ষের পর আজও বাংলায়
এই খাদ্যাভাব থাকায় যে নিদারুণ অবস্থা ঘটেছে সেটা আজ আব কথা কাটাকাটিব বিষয় নয়, অবস্থা কি তা
শ্রুতভেদে প্রাণে প্রাণে অনুভব করছেন। একটা সামান্য দুর্ভিক্ষই মানুষের ব্যক্তিগত জীবনে, সমাজ জীবনে ও
ঐ নৈতিক জীবনে এমন একটা বিবাত ওলট-পালট এনে দিয়ে যায় যে তাব ধাক্কা সহজে সামলান যায় না।
এটা সামান্য দুর্ভিক্ষ নয়—মহা দুর্ভিক্ষ—বহুবেব ওপব বছর বাংলাব উপব রয়েছে। তাব প্রতিকারেব প্রয়োজনীয়
শ্রুচেষ্টা না করে যারা আজও মন্ত্রিষের গদিতে বসে থাকেন তাঁদের সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কিছু বলাব প্রয়োজন হয় না।
দুর্ভিক্ষ রয়েছে, খাদ্যাভাব রয়েছে—সে সম্বন্ধে আজকে আলোচনাব জন্য একটি পুস্তাব নিয়ে আসা হয়েছে।
হামার আগেকাব বন্ধু বলেছেন দাম অনেক কমেছে। তাঁর কি সম্বণ আছে—বাংলায় এমন কত লক্ষ লোক
রাছে—যারা টাকায় পঁচ সেব হলেও চাল কিনে খেতে পারে না। পনের টাকা চাঁলেব দর, তা কয়জন
কিনে খেতে পারে? এ নিয়ে কথা কাটাকাটি করতে চাই না। বোগ সাবাতে হলে রোগ হওয়াব হেতু প্রথমে
দাবিকার করাব প্রয়োজন। যে কারণে বোগ হয়েছে তাব মূল হেতু যদি ধবতে না পাবি তাহলে বোগ আরোগ্য
ধবতে পারব না। আজ বাংলায় খাদ্যাভাব ও খাদ্যেব দাম বাড়ে কেন? মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ও আরও
বাকারের বড় বড় মুখপাত্র যারা তাঁরা বাংলাব খাদ্য সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ বিশেষ বাণী প্রচার কবেছেন—statement
দিয়েছেন, মূল কারণ হচ্ছে এই। অনেকে বলেন যে কংগ্রেসের দল বা একদল এই মন্ত্রিষকে লোকের কাছে
হয় প্রতিপন্ন করার জন্য চেষ্টা করছে এবং panic সৃষ্টি করছে। যদি তাই হয় তাহলে এর কারণ কি?
তাই দেখাই (A voice : দেখাই না, শুনাই) প্রথম হচ্ছেন যিনি ভাবতের ভাগ্যবিধাতা, ভাবতের ভাগ্যচক্রে
প্রধান গ্রহ অর্থাৎ Viceroy তিনি ১৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারীতে বলেছিলেন, “We are three million tons
short of our requirements and the world shortage of grains is such that we
cannot hope for imports of this magnitude.”

যেদিন ফেব্রুয়ারী মাসে বড়লাট সাহেব এই ঘোষণা কবলেন, ধান চালের দর বিভিন্ন জেলায় বেড়ে গেল।
দমত বলবার সময় হবে না। সময় থাকলে দেখিয়ে দিতাম কে কতটা দায়ী। এই statement হ’ল ১৬ই
ফেব্রুয়ারী—তারপর চালের দর বাড়তে বাড়তে কেমন করে বর্তমানে কোথায় কতটায় এসেছে শুনুন। ঢাকায়
মুন্সিগঞ্জে ফেব্রুয়ারী মাসেব প্রথম সপ্তাহে চালের দর ১৮ টাকা ছিল, জুন মাসেব শেষে দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩২.১৩৮ টাকা।
ত্রিপুরায় ফেব্রুয়ারী প্রথমে চালের দর ছিল ২০ টাকা, কিন্তু Viceroyএর statementএর পর, জুন মাসেব
শেষ দিকের কথা বলছি—চালের দর দাঁড়িয়েছে ৩৮ টাকা। ফরিদপুরে ফেব্রুয়ারী প্রথমে ছিল ১৩.১১০ টাকা
চালের দর সেখানে Viceroyএর statementএর পর দর দাঁড়িয়েছে—২৯.১৩০ টাকা। এই গেল এক
নম্বর। Statement দ্বারা panic সৃষ্টি করে কারা? দুই নম্বর হ’ল বাংলা সরকার। আমাদের বাংলাব
খাদ্যবিধাতা হচ্ছেন Mr. S. K. Chatterjee। এঁর বিবতি হচ্ছেই বুঝতে পারবেন কেন দর উঠছে?

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Where?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: The Government stocks in hand.

After rushing some supplies to the districts this stock has been depleted and we also know that in Calcutta at the present moment the stocks are so depleted as never before and there is barely one and a half months' stock in hand. The stock position is this at a time when outside help is practically out of the question because the Indonesian rice is not coming in and Anglo-America are playing their deep political game and nobody is going to help us if we are not going to help ourselves. It is very bad that Government have depleted the stocks of rice without having fresh procurement of sufficient rice. Bengal had got some rice from Assam but in Assam there is an unfortunate flood now and we shall not get any more from Assam. Therefore we have to depend on our own stock. The Chief Minister has said that one-third of Bengal is deficit area and for that one-seventh of the marketable surplus from all over Bengal is required to be purchased as stated by the Director-General of Food, Mr. S. K. Chatterjee. In figures that amounts to 650,000 tons which is, I think, quite insufficient. But even that 650,000 tons has not been bought by Government. They have got 400,000 tons and now it is too late to get any more rice from peasants. It has already gone to the profiteers, black-marketeers, zamindars and jotedars. Though the sands are running out very fast we say that even now there is time and the situation is not such that it cannot be tackled by the joint efforts of both sides of the House. But we are dealing with this subject in a light-hearted vein and one member quoted some poems and verses here which aroused laughter. I would ask those gentlemen concerned and all the members here that today the situation is not such that we can in this House speak in a light-hearted manner. Our belief is that even now there is time but we are not going to meet the situation if we justify the high prices on pet economic theories. There is a Ministry in power, be it a Ministry which represents a section of the people—only the Mussalmans. I would ask you, what is the difference between this Ministry today and Section 93 Government which was before it. Up to now it has made no difference and therefore I would request the Government, if they are at all serious about easing the situation and saving the people of Bengal then a few things have got to be done and that immediately. We must pursue a vigorous policy of procurement through the help of the people.

Khan Bahadur MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: On a point of order. Is it relevant on the part of the honourable member to speak that the present Ministry is like that of Section 93 Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr. JYOTI BASU: If the honourable member who was trying to interrupt me would be a little more patient and would try to understand my point, certainly he would understand the thing in the end. I say that Government should immediately pursue a vigorous policy of procurement through the help of people's committees. They should set up people's committee everywhere, in all the districts, villages and towns of Bengal. Without that you cannot get rice. Rice disappears into the black-market, into the pocket of profiteers, zemindars and jotedars. I say, commandeer rice. It is no use saying "We shall not force the people to give up rice". With people's food there cannot be any black-market or any trade whatsoever. When people are starving there is no good saying "We shall have ordinary open trade". Certainly not. If it is necessary it must be commandeered and we think since rice has gone to the hoards of zemindars and jotedars and black-marketeers it has got to be commandeered.

Secondly, I say distribution has got to be taken in hand and again with the help of the people—not the people sitting there in the Writers Buildings or in certain offices—no, it has got to be done through the common people.

People's committees have got to be built up and power given to them to distribute food which is being sent from Government stocks, otherwise the food that is being sent would again disappear into the black-market.

Then we say, extend rationing all over Bengal. This is long overdue; it should be done immediately without further delay, and lastly we say build up those food committees. At the present moment Government have no popular food policy and therefore I think there are many parties which are not co-operating but surely if the Government would declare a popular food policy, then all the parties, whoever they be, whatever their political differences today will not certainly go any other way but co-operate with the Government to save our own kith and kin, our own people. Therefore, build up elective food committees, announce their food policy. Somebody said that Government has only come into existence a few days back or a few months back, there was section 93. Again I repeat what difference has it made up to now.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has the power today to give food to the people, to make a happy living for the people of Bengal, but it is not doing its duty. We have power today which we never had before. Therefore I urge upon the Government, Mr. Speaker, to wake up to the reality of the situation and for once exert themselves not in a spirit of partisanship but in a spirit of patriotism, with a view to save our own people. This should be clear to everybody. May be there is a Ministry representing one section of the people but in Bengal there is no other way out for us but Hindus and Muslims to unite. Although it is an old phrase I say again, there is no other way out for the people of Bengal. I urge therefore through you, Mr. Speaker, upon all members of the House, let us co-operate in a bold manner so that we can say either to the Governor or the bureaucrats who have been ruling us that the Imperialist policy on food shall never be carried out in our country. Let Bengal set an example, for once let us forget our partisanship; let us for once unite together for the sake of the people, for the sake of Hindus and Mussalmans of our country.

Dr. PROTAP CHANDRA GUHA ROY: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, চালের সমস্যা আজকে যে সাংঘাতিক আকার ধারণ করেছে, সে কথা অস্বীকার কবাব উপায় নেই। বাংলা দেশে deficit area যেসব জায়গা আছে, তাব কোন জায়গায়ই চালের সন্ধান মেলে না, একথা অত্যন্ত সত্য। গভর্ণমেন্ট বিপোর্টে আজ বলা হয় যে চালের দাম কমে ১৩--১৫ টাকা হয়েছে, এটা সম্পূর্ণ মিথ্যা। ৩ দিন পূর্বে আমি আমার বাড়ী যে areaতে সেখান থেকে সংবাদ পেয়েছি যে সেখানে চাল ২৬।২৭ টাকা মণ প্রতি বিক্রী হচ্ছে। মাদারীপুর sub-divisionএ এমন বহু village আছে যেখানে ২৬।২৭ টাকা মণ প্রতি দিলেও চাল পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। এটা মাত্র তিন দিন আগের খবর। তাবপর যেভাবে চাল সববাহ করা হচ্ছে, তাতে একমাত্র গভর্ণমেন্টের হাতেই সমস্ত ভার অপিত হয়েছে। সে ব্যবস্থার ফলে পয়সা দিয়েও লোক চাল কিনতে পায় না; সেজন্য আমি certainly accuse কবব গভর্ণমেন্টকে কাবণ তাবাই চাল সববাহ কবতে পাবছেন না। আমি Ministerএব সঙ্গে দেখা করেছি, Director of District Distributionএব সঙ্গে দেখা করেছি--তাদের কাছে note দিয়েছি এবং তাতে দেখিয়ে দিয়েছি যে অত্যন্ত অপদার্থ কর্ত্তারীদের দ্বারা মাদারীপুর sub-divisionএ চাল supplyর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। আমি দেখিয়ে দিয়েছি যে dealersদের চাল supply পেতে হলে যথেষ্ট শুষ দিতে হয় এবং বাইরের থেকে চাল নিতে এসে মাদারীপুর শহরে ৭।৮ দিন বসে থেকে যথেষ্ট খোরাকী ও অন্যান্য খরচ করে যে খরচ পড়ে, তাতে black-marketting করা ছাড়া গতান্তর থাকে না। দূববর্তী স্থান থেকে হাজার হাজার টাকা সাথে করে মাদারীপুর এসে dealersদের Treasuryতে চালের দাম জমা দিতে হয়। সেখানে সরকারী সামান্য টাকা স্থানান্তরে নিতে গেলে বন্দুক সহ সিপাহী দবকাব, সেখানে সাধারণ লোককে বিনা protectionএ টাকা নিয়ে অসহায় অবস্থায় মাদারীপুরে আসতে হবে এবং Treasuryতে টাকা জমা দেবার জন্যও শুষ দিতে হবে। এই অসুবিধা দূর করার জন্য আমি suggestion দিয়েছিলাম যে স্থানীয় গুদাম--সেখান থেকে চাল, ধান delivery দেওয়া হবে, সেখানেই টাকা জমা দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা হোক। কিন্তু সে suggestion গ্রহণ করা কেউ সরকার বলে মনে করেন নি। তাবপর Retail dealer--সেখানেও গোটাতে communal

করা হয়েছে। অনেক Unionএ উপযুক্ত লোক থাক। সবেও কেবলমাত্র মুসলমান বলেই এমন লোককে Local dealer করা হয়েছে যে ব্যক্তি প্রয়োজনমত টাকা জমা দিয়ে চাল নিতে পারে না। আমি বহবার বলেছি যে প্রত্যেক থানায় বা বন্দরে distribution centre রাখা দরকার। কিন্তু আমি সমস্ত জায়গায়ই বিফল হয়েছি, fail করেছি। গভর্ণমেন্ট কিছুই করেননি। আমি সেখানে নিজে গিয়ে দেখেছি। আমি প্রত্যেক দিনের খবর রাখি। আমি demand করেছি—enquiryর জন্য। একথা শোনা যাচ্ছে যে সরকারী technical expert inspection করে সরকারী গুদামের ৫০০ বস্তা চাল মানুষের বাড়্যের অনুপযোগী বলে নষ্ট করে ফেলতে আদেশ দিয়েছিলেন, কিন্তু সেখানে সেই ৫ শত বস্তা পঁচা চাল গুদামে রেখে কেলে দেবাব নম করে ৫ শত বস্তা ভাল চাল বাজারে বিক্রী করে দিয়ে টাকা পকেটস্থ করা হয়েছে এবং প্রত্যেক dealerকে ভাল চালের সঙ্গে কতক সেই পঁচা চাল না মিলে চাল দেওয়া হবে না বলে বলা হচ্ছে। আমি এই সংবাদেব সত্যাসত্য পরীক্ষার জন্য enquiry করার দাবী জানিয়েছি, কিন্তু এখনও কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নি। মাদারীপুর Control অফিসাবের বিরুদ্ধে নালিশ করা হয়েছে যে প্রত্যেক মাসে মিশ্রী তৈয়ারীর নাম করে ৬০ মণ করে চিনি ৩০ জন dealerএব নামে খরচ লেখা হচ্ছে, কিন্তু এক ছটাক মিশ্রিও কোথায়ও তৈরী হয় নি। কোন জায়গায় কোন dealerএব সন্ধান মেলে নি। এই নালিশ সম্বন্ধে ভূতপূর্ব District Magistrate enquiry করে ছিলেন কিন্তু তাকে হঠাৎ transfer করে তার enquiryর reportকে ধামা চাপা দেওয়া হয়েছে। এই অবস্থা। Controlling অফিস থেকে এই সব চেষ্টা জোঁচোবদেব সরিয়ে দেবাব জন্য যথেষ্ট আবেদন করা সবেও তারা সেখানে খোসা মেজাজে, বহাল তব্বিতে বসে আছে। এই ডিপার্টমেন্ট সব জায়গাতে তাদের কর্তব্যে অবহেলা করেছে।

মাদারীপুর এলাকা চিরকালই deficit area --বিশালব চাল চিবকাল মাদারীপুরে যায়। Neighbouring জেলা খুলনা surplus area। কিন্তু বিশাল বা খুলনা থেকে চাল মাদারীপুরে যাবে না। চনৎকার সবকারী ব্যবস্থার গুণে স্বেদ দিনাজপুর থেকে চাল মাদারীপুর ও কবিদপুরেব অন্যান্য স্থানে আনতে হবে। এই রকম ব্যবস্থার দ্বারা কোন রকম redress হতে পাবে বলে আমার বিশ্বাস হয় না। এই most inefficient corrupt department তুলে দিয়ে জিনিষটা natural channelএ ছেড়ে দিলে (voice তাই বলুন) হয়ত ভাল ফল হবে বলে আমার মনে হয়। যাবা control করতে চায়, কিন্তু supplyএব ব্যবস্থা করতে পাবে না--সেই রকম inefficient ও impotent Governmentএব (Cheers) কাছ থেকে power কেড়ে নেওয়া ছাড়া উপায় নেই (Cheers)। গত ১৯৪৩ সালেব দুভিক্ষ স্মৃতি কবে যারা ৫০ লক্ষ লোক মেবে হাত পাকিয়েছেন, তাদের অনেকে এই মহিমণ্ডলীর মধ্যে বয়ে গেছেন। যাদের বিরুদ্ধে অগ্রণ্য নরহত্যার দাবীতে প্রকাশ্য বিচারালয়ে বিচার হবে প্রকাশ্যে চাবুক মাৰা উচিত ছিল (Cheers) ইংরাজী শাসনতন্ত্রেব মহিমায় তাবাই আবার এখন সবকারী গদিত্তে বসে পাকানো হাতের পুরাণো কসব দেখাতে আরম্ভ করেছে! তাই আমি এই অবধি দুঃঠন ব্যবস্থাব অবসানের জন্য Supply Department তুলে দিতে বলছি। এই অব্যবস্থিত গভর্ণমেন্টেব হাত থেকে ক্ষমতা কেড়ে নিয়ে যদি নূতন ব্যবস্থা করা না হয়, তবে না খেয়ে এষার দেশের লোক মুখ বুজে মরবেব পথে এগিয়ে যাবে না--একথা সবকারী কণ্ঠাবদেব ভাল করে বোঝা দরকার এবং সেই সাংখ্যাতিক অবস্থাব জন্য সম্পূর্ণ দায়ী হবেন Government—এ কথা যেন মনে থাকে।

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the impeachment that has been staged here by my honourable friends has been done against this Ministry for a thing for which it cannot be held responsible. It would have been proper had their entire attention been diverted to the section 93 administration. Why—I am coming to it. Why this section 93 administration should be held absolutely responsible—for that I would put facts and figures and show that it is absolutely the section 93 administration which is rather inviting this calamity of such a vast magnitude. Just in the beginning it should be borne in mind who was responsible for ushering in the section 93 administration in this province. You will find, Sir, one very valuable word which was uttered by the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy on the memorable day, on the fateful day when the Ministry came to a close on the last occasion, "By the fall of this Ministry, the visitation of section 93 administration will become inevitable." with the result that the position is as it is today with all its perils and its blemishes and its defects which are the natural outcome of section 93 and our worst apprehensions have proved to be true. One thing I should tell about the section 93 administration. Had they not been so

much occupied in butchering Muslim interests, and had they diverted some of their attention towards procurement, the result would have perhaps been different. Now, Sir, as regards procurement in my district which rather is usually taken to be a surplus district, namely, Khulna, the procurement in 1944 when the Ministry was on was 24 lakhs maunds. The same procurement during 1945 was about 6 lakhs and it is the 1945 stock which is before us for consideration of this House. You will understand, Sir, that in the face of this bad procurement, the most unthought of utterance of Lord Wavell was another factor which made the people famine conscious and people took to hoarding and gradually the normality of the market started to be disturbed. The announcement of Lord Wavell was perhaps misinterpreted. He wanted to take the country into confidence and wanted to give them an idea of the general food scarcity in the country and he wanted to warn the people that there might be trouble coming ahead. But taking advantage of that, Congress Press expolited the situation to such a magnitude that even the surplus districts all on a sudden became deficit and a ceaseless campaign has since then been carried on and as a result so much panic all over the province has been created. Sir, I do not deny—and it is not my intention to deny—that there are localised deficits, localised shortages which can be cordoned off or which can be met but the general panic or chaos which has been created in the country is the contribution of my friends occupying that part of the house.

One glaring instance of section 93 administration will be given before you all for consideration.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Who was the Food Commissioner under section 93? It was Mr. Williams and you are still retaining Mr. Williams as the Food Commissioner.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: I do not contest that. But my dear friends you are shouting and you are criticising about corruption and malpractices still persisting and existing in the Civil Supplies Department. Let me tell you my friends that we are also with you and there is a need, a definite need for an exhaustive overhaul of the Civil Supplies Department. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.) But whenever an attempt has been made to post Muslim officers—suitable officers and officers renowned for their honesty—that has been denounced by the press which is under your control. That is happening always. (Uproar.) Do not contest it, my friends. Here in my hand is my story written by thousands of Muslim officers of the Civil Supplies Department with tears and they will tell to what extent under section 93 Muslims in the commercial sphere, in the service sphere and in every sphere have been thrown out of their occupation.

Then, Sir, I will tell you about one thing of greatest interest. One circular was issued one fine morning that foodgrain licences would be issued on payment of Rs. 2 in the shape of stamps.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Who issued that order? Who was the Food Commissioner at the time?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: It was a section 93 order.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: As a result, Sir, what happened? Several thousands of people applied for fresh licences—I should say several lakhs of people applied for fresh licences. In this way, Sir, several lakhs of rupees were deposited in the Government exchequer. After a fortnight one fine morning another circular was issued to the effect that no new licences would be issued and that only the existing licences would have to be renewed.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: The same Mr. Williams.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Now, Sir, the thing is this that by means of one circular several lakhs of rupees were deposited in the Government

exchequer and by means of another circular the first circular was suppressed and in this way large sums of money went to the Government exchequer but people did not get licences.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: You are supporting us. If so, come over to this side. (Uproar.)

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: This is a glaring instance of muddling inefficiency and incompetency of the section 93 administration for which you are more or less responsible and for which the spectre of famine is facing us.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Look at the Madras Congress Government.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: As I was saying, Sir, a circular was issued that old licences would be renewed on payment of Rs. 2. As a result all people holding licences submitted their applications for renewal without any discrimination. The decision was that only ten per cent. of the licences would be renewed. Just imagine, Sir, the effect of these two circulars on the people. At first it was stated that fresh licences would be issued and then it was stated that only the existing licences would have to be renewed. As a consequence, several lakhs of rupees were deposited in the Government exchequer. May I ask whether it is not a fact that black-marketing of a colossal type was going on and was continuing in the name of administration under section 93?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is still continuing.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Sir, much has been said already. The Kishoreganj affair has been touched. So I do not want to throw any new light on the subject. Let me tell you once more that much communalism and favouritism have been demonstrated in that cursed régime. Let me inform this House about another fact. Look at the Town Hall. Look at the Directorate of Rationing. Only one single instance will be enough to prove this; out of 272 kerosene shops only four have been allotted to Muslims. Out of several hundreds of cloth shops only five *per cent.* has been given to Muslims. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want nothing more than justice. It is justice for which we always stood and for which we always clamour. We do not want to encroach upon the rights of anybody else, but it is justice for which we stand, for which we are crying and for which we expect every co-operation from our friends sitting on that side of the House. Now, the whole point is that there is no use telling that there is no shortage. The Food Commissioner has said that there is only 7 *per cent.* shortage; if a family consumes 100 maunds of rice per year, if it is asked to economise to the extent of 7 *per cent.* for the next seven months, I think, it is not asking too much. But the Nationalist Press is making propaganda about shortage of food and famine and so on and so forth. If they had not done so, Bengal could have been happier and could have been saved. Sir, I want to tell my friends opposite that there is no use making recriminations. The Congress has always said that the Congress does not want to mix food with politics, but in reality what we find is that the Congress is apt to mix food with money and politics. I would ask them to come forward and sit together: we will show them who have got the lion's share in trade in the province. What will be the position if a reduction is made in that share? You will see that so long only 10 *per cent.* of our people have been allowed to function in the normal trade channel during section 93 régime; as a result a coterie of Hindu merchants has been formed which is controlling the market today. It will be proved beyond any shadow of doubt that still today the market is being controlled by my friends sitting over there and they have themselves the monopoly of any prospect of any commercial enterprise that can be thought of. It can be said without much hesitation and without jeopardising the interest of anybody that if we all put our shoulders together we can certainly cope with the immediate future. About one district I can say that the best procurement months in that

district are January, February, March and April. Sir, it is on the question of bad procurement that this adjournment motion has been tabled. If the procurement had been up to the expectation, this adjournment motion could not have come. The Government of India's announcement of the 16th February disturbed the market and the procurement totally stopped. So, Sir, the whole point is that we should all devote our energies to discourage all sorts of anti-social activities and for this I would make an appeal to the honourable members that without launching their destructive activities they should give more attention and more thought to this matter. Sir, my friends have given a hint that unless we can plan a long term food policy, Bengal cannot be saved. I fully admit that the food policy as enunciated and pursued by Section 93 Government has definitely deteriorated and this policy should be discouraged by all means and a new policy should be adopted. The next three months will be a crying time for Bengal. So it will be dangerous for us now to launch into any long term plan on food.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose this adjournment motion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. SPEAKER: After the Hon'ble Minister has finished. We have got enough time at our disposal. The discussion will terminate at 7-17 p.m.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: Sir, it cannot be denied that the price of rice has risen since the middle of February last. In the surplus districts the rise in prices is as follows:—

On 6th February, 1946—Rs. 10-15.

On 10th April, 1946—Rs. 12-12.

On 12th June, 1946—Rs. 14-1.

On 17th July, 1946—Rs. 14-2.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: What districts do you refer to? Name them.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: They are Dinajpur, Khulna and Midnapore.

Mr. BENOD CHAKRAVARTY: I say the prices are not correct so far as I know the position in the districts.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: But I cite correct figures; please accept them.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: These are absolutely false.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: So far as the self-sufficient districts are concerned, the price position is as follows:—

On 6th February, 1946—Rs. 11-3.

On 10th April, 1946—Rs. 13-1.

On 12th June, 1946—Rs. 13-7.

On 17th July, 1946—Rs. 14-7.

These were the prevailing average prices of rice in the self-sufficient districts. They are Rangpur, the northern part of Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Murshidabad, Jessore.

The position so far as the deficit districts are concerned is as follows:—

On 6th February, 1946—Rs. 12-9.

On 10th April, 1946—Rs. 15-4.

On 12th June, 1946—Rs. 19-15.

On 7th July, 1946—Rs. 19-1.

This was the position in the deficit districts—(Cries and interruptions from the Congress benches.)

Mr. ABDUL KARIM: On a point of order, Sir. Are these interruptions in order?

- **Mr. SPEAKER:** It appears that interruptions are increasing gradually. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will be given a patient hearing.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Interruptions are inevitable and it must be challenged if the statement of the Hon'ble Minister is inaccurate. He is deliberately confusing the real position.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: My friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, can take notes and thereafter on a suitable occasion reply to the points noted. If you disturb in this way, the Hon'ble Minister would not be able to speak and you will have to go home disappointed.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAH: While these figures represent the average price in groups of districts, prices have risen to higher—

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give certain concrete instances of districts and prices instead of giving manipulated average figures?

Mr. SPEAKER: If you have anything to comment upon, you will do that afterwards.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am not commenting. Through you I am asking the Hon'ble Minister to state facts.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL GOFRAH: While these figures represent the average price in groups of districts, prices have risen to higher levels in isolated markets. At the same time, the prices are seldom as high as has been represented both here as well as in some of the newspapers. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We have got the statement of the Controller of Civil Supplies.) You have already heard it admitted in this House that prices have gone down considerably in some places. The significance of the prices, moreover, can only be understood in relation to wages and incomes. Since 1943 there has been a large amount of inflation and wages and incomes have risen. Therefore, in 1946 prices do not really represent the same thing as similar prices in 1943 before inflation had taken place. (Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: After unemployment had started. Ask the Labour Minister.) During the last month there has been a fall of prices in the deficit districts of the Province. (A MEMBER FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES: Question.) It cannot be denied. It is within our knowledge and it has been also admitted by several honourable members in this House. Due to rise of prices in the surplus districts and further on account of the propaganda that had been carried on in some newspapers (A MEMBER FROM THE OPPOSITION BENCHES: by the Viceroy.), procurement operations of Government have been hampered with the result that Government have had much smaller stocks available for distribution than what would otherwise have been the case. At the same time, Government stocks have been utilised to the best advantage of the deficit areas and the distressed section of the population. During this year 84 towns have been brought under statutory rationing so that the total population under statutory rationing now is a little over 6 millions. One more large town—Chandpur—is due to come under statutory rationing in the near future. Elsewhere in all areas where shortage has developed or prices have risen, rice and paddy are being distributed under modified rationing to A class population, i.e., the poorer families. Areas under modified rationing have been extended and 40 towns and 1,650 rural unions are under modified rationing.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: On a point of order, Sir. যে সব মাননীয় স্বামীহোদয়রা ইংরাজীতে বলতে পারেন না তাঁদের কি বাংলায় বলা উচিত নয়? (Laughter).

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: The total number of persons actually being benefited from the distribution of rice and paddy under modified rationing is approximately 62 lakhs. (Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state in how many of the 6,000 Union Board areas and 84,000 villages modified rationing has been introduced?) As I have already said, in 1,650 rural unions. While Government rice and paddy have been made available to all A class families and to some B class families in these areas, other measures have been taken to assist the destitute and the very poor who are unable to buy rice even at Government rates. Apart from other relief measures such as test relief works, works under post-war unemployment relief schemes, agricultural loans, interest-free loans for other purposes, gratuitous relief, institutional relief in destitute homes, rice and paddy are being distributed to the destitutes and to the very poor both as free doles and at concessional rates through grain ration shops. (Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What is the amount of agricultural loan that is granted per head—Rs. 5 or Rs. 6?) It is given to the needy, those who require it. (Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What is the amount?) The total provincial offtake of rice has been as follows:

January—13,16,620 maunds.
 February—21,10,740 maunds.
 March—23,47,360 maunds.
 April—18,79,820. maunds.
 May—23,96,320 maunds.
 June—25,35,040 maunds.

Therefore, you can never say that Government has not given enough for distribution in the deficit districts. Of these, the following quantities were released for consumption in the non-rationed areas:—

January—4,40,640 maunds.
 February—9,38,400 maunds.
 March—14,00,800 maunds.
 April—12,15,840 maunds.
 May—13,32,800 maunds.
 June—14,96,000 maunds.

In addition, the offtake of wheat has been 20,000 tons *per month* on an average.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: The question may now be put.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur ABDUL COFRAN: While it is not claimed that Government have supplied food-grains to everyone and while it is conceded that the scale of distribution in non-rationed areas has been lower than the optimum and while, therefore, certain amount of hardship has undoubtedly been caused, the stocks in the hands of Government have been so utilised that every poor family within an area of shortage and high prices has received enough to be able to subsist. Government believe, therefore, that none has actually starved in any deficit area. The press has published a few reports of death from alleged starvation in Eastern Bengal. Can it be believed that if there was starvation in any particular locality, there would be only one death and not more? None of these reports have, however, been substantiated by enquiries.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: You have reached the time-limit.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Sir, the question be now put.

The question that the question be now put was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

NOE8—125.

Abdul Ahad, Dr.	Khurram Khan Panee, Mr.
Abdul Awal, Mr.	Lutfar Rahman, Mr. Dewan
Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.	Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur
Abdul Aziz Munshi, Khan Sahib	Mahammad Owais, Mr.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza	Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Mr.
Abdul Hai, Maulana	Majibar Rahamn, Maulvi
Abdul Hakim Mia, Mr.	Malik, Dr. A. M.
Abdul Hakim Vikramপুরi, Mr. Md.	Mackinlay, Mr. G. M.
Abdul Halim, Khan Sahib Molla	Mandal, The Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath
Mohammad.	Maniruddin Akhand, Mr.
Abdul Hamid, Mr.	Martuza Reza Chowdhury, Mr.
Abdul Hamid, Khan Bahadur A. M.	Masiuddin Ahmed (<i>alias</i> Raja Miah),
Abdul Hannan, Mr.	Mr.
Abdul Karim, Mr.	Mazharul Haque, Mr. Abu Taiyab
Abdul Khaleque, Khan Bahadur	Mobarak Ali Ahmed, Mr.
Abdul Mannan, Mr. Fakir	Mohammad Sharif Khan, Mr.
Abdul Momin, Mr.	Mohammed Ali, The Hon'ble Khan
Abdullahel Baqui, Mr. Md.	Bahadur.
Abdur Rahman, The Hon'ble Khan	Mozammel Hossain, Dr. Khan Sahib
Bahadur A. F. M.	Mudassir Hossain, Khan Bahadur
Abdur Rahman Khan (<i>alias</i> Nuru Mia),	Muhammad Habibullah Chaudhury, Mr.
Mr.	Muhammad Idris, Maulvi
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.	Muhammad Ishaque, Mr.
Abdur Rashid, Maulana Khondkar	Muhammad Quasem, Maulana Haji
Abdus Sabur Khan, Mr.	Muhammad Qumruddin, Mr.
Abdus Salam, Mr. Md.	Muhammad Rafique, Mr.
Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Mr.	Muhammad Rukonuddin, Mr.
Abul Masud, Mr. Kazi	Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr.
Abul Quasem, Mr.	Syed.
Ahamad Ali, Mr. Mir.	Musharruff Hossain, Nawab, Khan
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Mr.	Bahadur.
Ahmed Hosain, The Hon'ble Mr.	Muzaffar Rahman Choudhury, Mr.
Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury, Mr.	Nasarulla, Nawabzada K.
Akbar Ali, Maulvi	Nawajesh Ahmed, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.	Nawab Ali, Mr.
Ali Ahmed Khan, Mr.	Nazir Hossain Khandkar, Mr.
Anwara Khatun	Nurazzaman, Khan Bahadur, M.B.E.
Arif Chaudhury (Dhanu Mia), Mr. Md.	Osman Gani, Khan Sahib Md.
Asan Ali Muktear, Mr.	Paniruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur	Pentony, Mr. L. R.
Baduzzaman Muhammad Ilias, Mr.	Platel, Mr. R. E.
Bafatuddin Talukdar, Mr. A. K. M.	Ray, Mr. Nagendra Narayan
Duff, Mr. D. I.	Ricketts, Mrs. E. M.
Ebrahim Khan, Khan Bahadur	Salim, Mr. S. A.
Emaduddin Ahammad, Mr.	Serajal Haque, Khan Bahadur Syed
Eskandar Ali Khan, Mr.	Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Midnapore)
Farid Ahmad Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur	Serajuddin Ahmed, Mr. (Gaibandha)
Fazlul Karim, Mr.	Serajul Islam, Mr.
Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur	Shamsuddin Ahmed, The Hon'ble Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Dacca), Mr.	Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (<i>alias</i>
Fazlur Rahman (Mymensingh), Khan	Badsha Mia), Mr.
Bahadur.	Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Fazlur Rahman (Noakhali), Mr.	Shamsuddin Sikdar, Mr. Md.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.	Sharfuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur
Gomes, Mr. D.	Smart, Mr. J. N.
Habibul Huq, Mr. Syed	Stark, Mr. A. F.
Hafizuddin Choudhury, Mr.	Stokes, Mr. N.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib	Suhrawardy, The Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Hassan Ali, Mr.	Tafazzal Ali, Mr.
Haywood, Mr. R.	Taylor, Mr. A. W.
Ilias Ali Molla, Mr.	Tofazzel Hossain, Mr.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur	Walton, Mr. A. C.
Jonab Ali Mia, Khan Sahib	Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Kabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.	Wilkinson, Mr. G.
Khairat Hossain, Mr.	Wilks, Mr. G. C. D.
Khuda Bukhsh, Mr. Md.	Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
	Yusuf Hossain Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur
	Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr.

AYES—86.

Acharjee, Mr. Shitangshu Kanta
 Adhikari, Mr. Amulya Chandra
 Bandopadhyaya, Mr. Pramatha Nath
 Banerjee, Mr. Gobindalal
 Banerjee, Mr. Susil Kumar
 Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra
 Barman, Mr. Haran Chandra
 Barman, Mr. Mohini Mohan
 Barury, Mr. Dwarka Nath
 Basu, Mr. Hemanta Kumar
 Basu, Mr. Jyoti
 Bhandari, Mr. Charu Chandra
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Ganendra Chandra
 Bhattacharjee, Mr. Munindra Nath
 Bhattacharyya, Mr. Shyamapada
 Birsha, Mr. Bir
 Biswas, Mr. Bholanath
 Biswas, Mr. Gayanath
 Bose, Mr. Satish Chandra
 Chakraborty, Mr. Benode Chandra
 Chakravarty, Mr. Satish Chandra
 Chatterjee, Mr. Haripada
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Mihir Lal
 Chowdhury, Mr. Annada Prosad
 Das, Miss Bina
 Das, Mr. Brojomadhab
 Das, Mr. Jogendra Chandra
 Das, Mr. Radha Nath
 Das Gupta, Mr. Khagendra Nath
 Das Gupta, Mr. Suresh Chandra
 Dass, Mr. Kanailal
 Datta, Mr. Dharendra Nath
 De, Mr. Kanai Lal
 Dhar, Mr. Manoranjan
 Dutta, Mr. Sukumar
 Dutt-Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu
 Gayen, Mr. Arabinda
 Ghose, Mr. A. K.
 Ghose, Mr. Bimal Comar
 Ghose, Mr. Jyotish Chandra
 Ghosh Chowdhury, Mr. Haran Chandra
 Guha Roy, Dr. Protap Chandra
 Gupta, Mr. J. C.

Gupta, Mr. Monoranjan
 Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh
 Haldar, Mr. Kuber Chand
 Jalan, Mr. Iswar Das
 Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath
 Lahiri, Mr. Provas Chandra
 Mahanty, Mr. Charu Chandra
 Mahtab, Sir Uday Chand, K.C.I.E.,
 Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan.
 Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari
 Majhi, Mr. Nishapati
 Majumdar, Mr. Bhupati
 Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
 Mallick, Mr. Ashutosh
 Mandal, Mr. Annadaprasad
 Mandal, Mr. Bankubehari
 Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
 Mukherji, Mr. Dharendra Narayan
 Murarka, Mr. Basantlal
 Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Cos-
 simbazar.
 Naskar, Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar
 Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra
 Panja, Mr. Jadabendra Nath
 Pramanik, Mr. Purna Chandra
 Pramanik, Mr. Rajani Kanta
 Ray, Mr. Kamal Krishna
 Ray Barman, Mr. Rajani Kanta
 Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy
 Roy, Mr. Harendra Nath
 Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
 Roy, Mr. Ram Hari
 Roy, Mr. Rup Narayan
 Sarkar, Mr. Bijoy Krishna
 Sarkar, Mr. Rajendra Nath
 Sarker, Mr. Prafulla Ranjan
 Sen, Mrs. Ashalata
 Sen, Mr. Debendra Nath
 Sen, Mr. Satindra Nath
 Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
 Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra
 Singhi, Mr. Narendra Sing
 Sinha, Mr. Bimal Chandra
 Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan
 Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

Ayes being 86 and Noes 125 the motion was lost.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend, Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy, has regaled us with a poetical speech. I wish to return him a decent Persian poem which says:—

دروغہ نیکذامی ما را گزر نہاوند * گر تر نمپسندی تغیر کن فقا

Sir, our friends opposite have not a single word of praise for us and they will never say a word in favour of us. But God's decree they cannot change.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is the business now, Sir? Will there be a prize-distribution after this? (Laughter.)

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I must tell my friends opposite that what I have been able to gather up till now from their speeches is that they are full of destructive criticisms. They will not be able to give us any food. They could not give us any concrete suggestions—

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. The time for the adjournment motion is over and the honourable member can continue no longer.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is speaking on the adjournment motion the debate on which is still continuing.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: After the question has been put, can there be any speech on the matter?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: On a point of order, Sir. Adjournment motionএৰ পৰ কি বক্তৃতা হওৱা উচিত? দুই ঘণ্টা পাব হৱে গেছে এখন কি adjournment motionএৰ বক্তৃতা হতে পাবে?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Members on the opposite side do not know the elementary rules of business of the House. The business is to be discussed for two full hours. Let me explain the position.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am on a point of order. I am on my legs.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Honourable members of the Opposition do not appear to be serious.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: What I was saying was that the division was taken at 7-12. The House has to discuss the adjournment motion for two hours. The two hours was not completed because there were still 3 minutes left when the division took place and after division when the question that the question be now put was defeated—

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is up. The adjournment motion is talked out. The House stands adjourned till 4-45 p.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 7-35 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 26th July, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under
the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 26th July, 1946, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 209 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Checking of corruption and bribery in Government services.

***5. Mr. S. K. SAWDAY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's Department be pleased to state whether Government accept the recommendations with regard to checking of bribery and corruption as contained in the Report of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee, 1944-45?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken to give effect to the recommendations other than those to which effect has been given in Ordinance No. VI of 1946?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table showing action taken up to date on the recommendations.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 5, showing action taken up to date on the recommendations made by the Rowlands Committee with regard to checking of bribery and corruption.

(1) *Paragraph 228(i).*—Only a small number of officers have been selected by the Civil Supplies Department who are authorized to issue permits and very detailed instructions have been issued regarding the eligibility of candidates for receiving permits.

(2) *Paragraph 228(ii), (iii) and (iv).*—Necessary instructions covering these points have already been issued.

(3) *Paragraph 228(v).*—Necessary instructions have already been issued.

(4) *Paragraphs 229-31.*—The Government of India were requested to enact legislation on the lines of the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee. The only positive action taken so far is the issue of Ordinance No. VI of 1946. Presumably the allied questions are under the consideration of the Government of India in consultation with the Provincial Governments.

(5) *Paragraph 233.*—The recommendation of the Committee was brought to the notice of the various Service Associations from whom practical suggestions were invited. The suggestions received from the Associations are under examination.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that rice is being exported from the cordoned areas in Mymensingh under the very nose of the Civil Supply Officers and the Enforcement Officers have to be satisfied with a payment of Re. 1 per maund—

Mr. SPEAKER: You are putting a very lengthy question. Will you kindly abridge it?

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: My question is this: rice is being exported from the Netrakona subdivision. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of that?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I submit, Sir, that this question does not arise.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: My contention is that this question does arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please frame your question briefly.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that rice is being exported from certain cordoned areas under the very nose of the Government officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that a number of cases were instituted against the corrupt officials on a charge of bribery?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: Sir, I do not think the question arises.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: That is for the Speaker to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the honourable member let me know with reference to which answer he is putting this question?

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: With reference to answer (c).

Mr. SPEAKER: Answer (c) only gives a statement as to what action Government have taken.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: In how many cases action has been taken?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that the question arises.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether after the issue of these instructions to the officers, Government has received any complaint?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to paragraphs (2) and (3) of the statement laid on the Table will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the substance of the instructions issued?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I would refer him to the Rowlands Committee's Report.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: With reference to answer (a) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is prepared to appoint an Anti-Corruption Committee as has been done in other Provinces?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: The matter will be considered by Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: With reference to answer (a) to the effect that Government has accepted the recommendation with regard to checking of bribery and corruption as contained in the Report of

the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee, 1944-45, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state after having accepted that there was bribery and corruption in how many cases has Government taken action for bribery and corruption against persons responsible?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: With reference to question (a) to which the Hon'ble Minister has replied that steps have been taken to check bribery, will he be pleased to state whether any case has been instituted against the millionaires of Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a vague question.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: The Hon'ble Minister says that steps have been taken to check bribery. I want to know whether any steps have been taken by instituting cases against persons who are in the topmost ranks in the matter of taking bribe and in the matter of creating an atmosphere of corruption?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is also a vague question.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: With reference to paragraph one of the statement will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the instruction issued is being followed strictly by the officers concerned?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: It is expected so.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Is the Government satisfied?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: May I make one request to the Speaker? In view of the fact that we have not got the Rowland Committee's Report, it is impossible for us to put any supplementary question. It is a very important question and may I request you to allow this question to stand over, so that we may put questions after having received the Report?

Mr. SPEAKER: If necessary you can put a new question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Without having the book it is impossible to put questions, because paragraphs 228, 229-31 and 233 of the Rowlands Committee's Report have been referred to.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can give a fresh notice of the question.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Report is in the Library.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We require it just now. We, therefore, want the question to stand over.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I know if the Parliamentary Secretary will do his duty by only referring to the recommendations of the Rowland Committee and not definitely stating what instructions they have issued or what steps they have taken?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been put and a reply was given.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Shall we take that instructions were there in the Rowlands Committee's Report or instructions were issued by the Government themselves?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is clear from the answer that certain recommendations were made in paragraphs referred to in the answer and necessary instructions in accordance with those recommendations have been issued by Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We want to know what are the actual instructions that were issued by the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that an answer was already given.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state what definite steps have been taken to check bribery and corruption?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I have nothing further to add excepting the answer given in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be please to state what steps have been taken to check corruption and bribery?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: Instructions have been issued according to the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee's Report to the departments concerned.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Statementএর ৫ নম্বরে—Rowland Committeeএর ২৩৩ধারার কথা উল্লেখ আছে—তাব ভিতরে আছে, গভর্ণমেন্ট servantরা তাবা যে ঘূ'নেবেন না সে জন্য তাঁদের এমন positionএ রাখতে হবে যে তাঁরা নিজেবা কোন সন্দেহের মধ্যে পড়বেন না। মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ কবে বলবেন কি—কোন কোন জেলা থেকে নালিশ এসেছে—কোন কোন অফিসে সেখানে বহুদিন থেকে আছে—তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে ঘূষ নেবার গুজব বটেছে; তাঁদের সেখান থেকে সরাবার চেষ্টা হয়েছে কিনা—যাতে তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে লোকের মনে সন্দেহ করার কিছু না থাকিতে পারে?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: No information has been received by the Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that definite allegations and complaints were sent to Government from Bogra district against the District Controller, Bogra?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Rowland Committeeএর Reportএর ভিতরে এই কথা আছে :

Under paragraph 28(i) only a small number of officers have been selected by the Civil Supplies Department who are authorised to issue permits and very detailed instructions have been issued regarding the eligibility of candidates for receiving permits. This is as if they are the only persons who do not take bribes and are not guilty and that the others are all dishonest. স্বতরাং এই recommendation তাঁরা গ্রহণ কবেছেন না কি সেটা জানতে পারি কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government has found high officials in the administration guilty of corruption and bribery and therefore passed this order in respect of the restriction of power to issue permits?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I am not aware of that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, after having accepted that bribery and corruption exist, what classes of persons in the administrative services have been found guilty of corruption and bribery?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a vague question.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I submit, Sir, the question is sufficiently clear and refers to classes of persons who have been found guilty of bribery and corruption with reference to the period which was covered by the report of the Administration Enquiry Committee. I am asking the Hon'ble Minister to be pleased to state what classes of officers have been

found guilty of bribery and corruption. Government say that they have accepted the report of the Administration Enquiry Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: It appears, they have only accepted the recommendations. There was finding about the class of officers who were found guilty of bribery and corruption.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The recommendations are based on the existence of bribery and corruption. If you will be pleased to look into the report of the Administration Enquiry Committee, it is in the report and answer (a) says that Government has accepted the report and recommendations following therefrom. The Administration Enquiry Committee drew up a report that had their findings of fact and on the basis of their findings they made recommendations and Government answers that Government had accepted the recommendations. I am therefore entitled to ask as to what classes of persons in the administration have been found by Government guilty of bribery and corruption because otherwise Government could not have accepted that report.

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I am concerned only with the recommendations and not with the conduct of officers.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The recommendations of the Administration Enquiry Committee with a view to wipe out bribery and corruption having been accepted by Government, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has made enquiries into the actual facts of bribery and corruption in the administration?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: Necessary instructions regarding the recommendations have been issued.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has understood the question?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no question at all.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: Rowland Committeeৰ বিপোর্টে যখন আছে বাংলাদেশ পূৰ্বে যে অবস্থা ছিল তাৰ চেয়ে ঘূৰিব অবস্থা এখন আৰু বেৰী খাপ হৈছে। কাৰণ যুদ্ধৰ দৰুণ টাকা খুব সত্তা হৈছে—লোকৰ লোভ বেড়ে গৈছে। স্বতৰাং এই অবস্থায় মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰীমহাশয় যখন বলছেন—এই recommendation গ্ৰহণ কৰেছেন—তখন তিনি সপ্তে সপ্তে এটাও স্বীকাৰ কৰে নিবেছেন যে দেশে corruption আছে। স্বতৰাং enquiry কৰে তাঁৰা কোন কোন অফিসাৰে বিকছে যোকৰ না কৰেছেন তা জানতে পাৰি কি?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I am not concerned regarding the detailed report but I am only concerned with the recommendations of the Rowland Committee's report.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Paragraph 288(i)এ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰীমহাশয় বলেছেন যে Civil Supply Department-এ permit-এৰ বেলায় শুধু bribe নেওয়া হয় অন্যত্ৰ হয় না।

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too detailed a question; so I disallow it.

Mr. MIHIR LAL CHATTOPADHYAYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether by the selection of a set number of officers corruption and bribery has stopped and Government has heard of no complaint from any quarter?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if pending the formation of the proposed Enquiry Commission it will be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to make a mass transfer of the Civil Supplies Department officers in the mofussil?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: With regard to the recommendations of the Committee with which this question is concerned I do not think the question of transfer arises.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: So far as the Enforcement Branch is concerned which is responsible for checking bribery and corruption, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the Muslim percentage in that department?

Mr. Syed ABDUS SALIM: I submit this question does not arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

Motion of Address to the Governor.

(Under rule 117 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. In your Circular No. 250 of 23rd July it is stated that the Hon'ble Speaker has been pleased to fix the following business and he has mentioned three dates, 26th July, 2nd and 9th August. The business against 26th July, as set down, is a motion under rule 117 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. Now, Sir, I may draw your attention to paragraph 2 of the Circular where it is stated that this business has been fixed under rule 18 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules read with Order 6(2) under Appendix III of the Regulations made by the Hon'ble the Speaker under the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. May I invite your attention, Sir, to Appendix III which deals with Regulations regarding the manner of determining by ballot the relative precedence of notices of Bills and resolutions under rule 20(2) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules?

Sir, I submit that a business of this description cannot be set down and fixed under rule 20(2) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. My submission is based on the fact that the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules make provisions for different types of business and different chapters are devoted to particular types of business. If you will be pleased to look at the section mentioned in the notice, *viz.*, rule 18 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, you will find, Sir, that the fixing of any business other than resolutions and Bills on a Friday, which is the only day available for private members' business, is to be done by the Governor. That is a special procedure, but the Speaker's powers are confined to allotment of time for private members' business on a Friday which is confined to business of a definite description which has been laid down in the Procedure Rules, *viz.*, to resolutions and private members' Bills. Sir, Appendix III in pursuance of this provision having laid down the manner of determining by ballot the relevant precedence of notices of Bills and resolutions, I do not see that it is admissible to fix other business under these rules which prescribe the manner of determining by ballot the relevant precedence of notices of Bills and resolutions only.

Sir, the rules make elaborate provision for the manner in which ballot is to be taken. All the notices of private members' Bills and resolutions are to be taken together and then a ballot will take place in pursuance of the rules which are laid down very elaborately and I would invite your attention also to these rules. These are rules 85 to 95. They prescribe the entire procedure for the purpose of fixing business coming under the category of resolutions.

Now, Sir, if you will look at Part XI of the Procedure Rules under the heading "Miscellaneous" in contradiction to Part VI with the heading "Resolutions", you will find that rule 117 under Part XI heading "Miscellaneous" lays down provision for an address to the Governor. There is the mere provision that an address from the Assembly to the Governor shall be presented

through the Speaker after motion made and carried in the Assembly. Now, Sir, I submit that Part XI heading "Miscellaneous" lays down provision for business of a category which is altogether different from the category of business as laid down under Part VI under the heading "Resolutions." I submit the matter involves an important question of members' privilege. Private members—non-official members—know that the only day available to them for taking up their Bills and resolutions of which they have given notice is the Friday that is set down for non-official business. With regard to this procedure, Sir, I humbly submit that you are not empowered under the Regulations framed by the Hon'ble Speaker in pursuance of the Procedure Rules to fix and set down business of the present description in the manner in which it has been done. I submit, Sir, you are debarred from doing it and, therefore, fixing up of this business as contained in the notice of the 24th July, 1946, is altogether out of order. I submit also that this raises an important point of privilege. It is also made obligatory on the Speaker, if the order of precedence of resolutions and Bills has not been announced beforehand by notification, to announce that when the Assembly meets. Now, Sir, we do not know whether that procedure has been followed. On the notice served there is no indication. On the contrary, it is categorically stated that you are fixing this business on the 26th which is a Friday, under rule 18 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules read with order 6(ii) under Appendix III of the Regulations and I submit Appendix III of the Regulations do not empower you to fix any business other than Bills or resolutions. Therefore, I submit that fixing of this business in this manner is altogether out of order. I submit this because it raises a very important point of privilege of members and, Sir, I submit that you, as the custodian of the privileges of the members of this House, may not allow any encroachment on the precious privilege of private members of having Friday exclusively set down for their private Bills and resolutions. I, therefore, request you to consider this point and to rule the fixing of this business as out of order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Another point of order, Sir. In continuation of my friend's argument—

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Sir, one point of order has been raised by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar. This is a second point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is Mr. Datta speaking on the point of order raised by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I am speaking on the same point of order but I am giving additional reasons.

Mr. SPEAKER: Additional reasons on that point of order?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yes, Sir. I am giving additional grounds. Even if this motion is treated as a resolution, as it has been sought to be done—as appears from the notice itself I am also to inform that under rule 18 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules read with order 6(ii) under Appendix III of the Regulations made by the Hon'ble Speaker under the Bengal Legislative Procedure Rules, the Hon'ble Speaker has fixed the 26th July, 1946, for the disposal of this business—and if it comes under rule 20(2), as has been sought to be done, and if it is treated as a resolution, then the relative precedence of notices of Bills and resolutions given by private members shall, from time to time, be determined by ballot in such manner as the Speaker may direct. The order of priority as determined by the ballot shall be final. Besides this resolution—if it is treated as a resolution and it has been treated as a resolution—there are other resolutions of private members. Then the order of precedence is to be determined by ballot, but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid it has not been determined by ballot. If it be determined by ballot, it should be determined in the presence of the parties. I do not know—the Secretary will be able to enlighten us—whether

there was any ballot made. If it has been determined by ballot, it should be determined by ballot at least in the presence of the Chief Whip of our party. I am told that nothing has been done in the presence of the Chief Whip and I may take it that there has been no ballot.

MR. SPEAKER: That point has already been dealt with by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No ballot has been taken. If there has been no ballot, there can be no precedence under rule 20(2). This should not be treated as distinct from a resolution which has been sought to be done. If it be treated as a resolution, then there are other resolutions of private members. I have got my own resolution. Many other members have got their own resolutions. The order of precedence has to be determined by ballot. If it has not been done, this cannot take precedence and this cannot form part of business in today's list.

MR. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, may I make the position clear by making this submission? Either it is a resolution or you have treated it, Sir, as a special motion. If the rules framed by the Speaker applicable to resolutions and motions is contended not to apply to this special motion I will only refer you to May's Parliamentary Practice. If it is contended by the other side that this is a motion under rule 117 and as such the limitations regarding motions and limitations regarding resolutions as laid down in the rules would not apply then I would ask you to refer to May's Parliamentary Practice. It is admitted that when our rules provide for certain procedure that will apply, but in case it is contended that our rules do not provide for any address under rule 117 then we shall be bound by May's Parliamentary Practice. It has been laid down there: "The procedure upon a motion for address is the same as that of an ordinary substantive motion. It requires notice and admits of debate and amendments and divisions like a motion." Therefore, Sir, an address contemplated under rule 117 is also governed by the rules which govern resolutions and motions.

I may add only one other thing. The form is the form of a resolution. It is said "In the opinion of the Assembly an address be presented" but that is not the form of an address. It has also been laid down in May's Parliamentary Practice. That form is this: "an humble address to be presented and so and so". "In the opinion of the Assembly" is absent. The motion, as it has been tabled, is a resolution. The language is that of a resolution. If it is a resolution it must be governed by the rules governing resolutions; if it is a motion it must be governed by the rules governing motions according to our rules. And if it is contended that no rules will apply to an address contemplated under rule 117 it will be governed by May's Parliamentary Practice as you know, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, reference has been made by Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar to rule 18 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. It lays down that on Fridays non-official business will be transacted, but it also lays down that the Governor may allot different Fridays for the disposal of different classes of private members' business. On days allotted for any particular class of business, business of that class shall have precedence. Therefore, Sir, in accordance with this you have today fixed a particular kind of non-official business, namely, a special motion under rule 117. Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar has referred to Appendix III of the regulations made by you which prescribes the manner in which the relative precedence of different Bills or different resolutions will be determined, but, Sir, I want to say that there are three classes of non-official business—one private members' Bills, the other ordinary resolutions and the third is special motions for which special provisions has been made under rule 117 and not under rule 85.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: A special motion is different. Special motions come under rule 95. Ordinary resolutions come under rule 85.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, that is so. Special motions come under rule 95, ordinary resolutions come under rule 85, and addresses to the Governor come under rule 117. These are the different classes of non-official business. Today is allotted for consideration of motions which come under rule 117. Therefore, Sir, you are perfectly in order to fix today for a particular kind of business.

Now, Sir, with regard to relative precedence, there I am sure you have received only one such motion which comes under rule 117. Had there been more motions for presentation of address to the Governor then the question of balloting would have come. The question of balloting does not arise when there is one particular motion. Other days have been fixed for transacting non-official business, namely, taking up private members' Bills and private members' resolutions. Particular days have been allotted—I think the 2nd and 9th of the next month. On the 2nd August there is non-official business and on the 9th August also there is non-official business and different classes of non-official business have been specified for those two days. Today has been allotted for a special motion under rule 117. Therefore I think you are perfectly in order to allot this Friday for a particular class of non-official business and as there happens to be only one notice for one motion the question of balloting does not arise.

Mr. Gupta has referred to May's Parliamentary Practice, but the reference that he has made is a reference to the procedure and manner in which the motion will be taken up in the House, and that reference is made only with regard to the admissibility of amendments and the necessity for moving it in a particular form. There it is not said that it will be treated as an ordinary resolution of the House. Therefore there is no guidance in May's Parliamentary Practice to which Mr. Gupta has referred. I hope, Sir, that you will rule the point of order out of order.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I would point out, Sir, that the honourable member has referred to rule 95 and seeks to make of this business a special motion under rule 95 read with rule 117. Now, Sir, the rule the honourable member cites makes this business all the more out of order altogether. I shall invite your attention to rule 95. This rule says: "Save in so far as is otherwise provided by the Act or by these rules, no discussion of a matter of general public interest shall take place otherwise than on a resolution moved in accordance with these rules, except with the consent of the Speaker and of the Minister to whose department the motion relates." I should like to know, Sir, to which department of Government this particular motion relates.

Then, Sir, sub-section (2) lays down: "No motion shall be admissible if it relates to a matter—"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not quote rule 95. I only stated that there are different classes of non-official business. Some come under rule 95, some under rule 85 and some under rule 117. I said that the present motion comes under rule 117. I did not say that this came under rule 95.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Now, Sir, rule 117 merely makes provision for the House, if it so desires, to present an address to the Governor. Whether that address will relate to a motion or to a particular resolution of the House is quite another matter. I will invite your attention, Sir, to the fact that there are two different chapters. One deals with rules relating to motions while another chapter deals with rules relating to resolutions. Motions and resolutions are again two different and distinct things and the honourable member is, I am afraid, confusing motions with resolutions. If the honourable member is anxious to make of it a special motion

then he has to come under rule 95, and rule 95 clearly shuts him out. Rule 95 says that no motion shall be admissible if it relates to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Provincial Government and, Sir, this rule is intended to safeguard a precious privilege because the principle of provincial autonomy is the very foundation and basis of the Constitution under which this House came into existence and is functioning. Sir, with a view to safeguard the privileges of the members a special provision has been made under the chapter on Resolutions, *viz.*, Part VI of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules. There is a separate chapter, namely, Part IV of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules which deals with motions. My honourable friend has not stated or made the point clear whether he wishes to proceed under Part IV, that is to say, the procedure relating to motions or whether he wishes to proceed under Part VI, that is, the procedure relating to Resolutions. He cannot blow hot and cold at the same time. He cannot take advantage of Part VI or Part IV, one failing, to resort to the other, because the Hon'ble Speaker's notice shuts him out altogether. In the notice the Hon'ble Speaker says, "I am also to inform you that under rule 18 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules read with Order 6, sub-clause (2), under Appendix III of the Regulations made by the Hon'ble Speaker, the Hon'ble Speaker has fixed the 26th of July, 1946, for the disposal of this business." Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Speaker cannot violate the regulations and rules made by himself and the Hon'ble Speaker must be the first person to show scrupulous respect to the regulations by which this House is guided and which are supposed to guide the activities of the members in respect of giving notices of bills and other business.

Now, Sir, having stated that you fixed this business under rule 18, read with Appendix III, rule 6, this business clearly goes out of order because there must have been some oversight or mistake. Therefore the present procedure is not applicable to fixing up of this business and it should neither be taken up as a special motion under rule 95, because the limitations are clear and emphatic, nor should it be taken as an *ad hoc* motion under rule 117 on a day which is specially fixed for private members' Bills and resolutions which should be taken up according to a particular procedure. And you have adopted that procedure taking up this day as a day for private members to introduce either Bills or resolutions.

Now, Sir, I wish to invite your attention to rule 6(2) which says that if the Governor has passed no order you are only to allot the time—naturally the Governor cannot pass any order—that this House shall present an address to him. It is absolutely a monstrous thing to conceive. I think there is no such order from the Governor to present an address to him. In that case the list of business will be compiled so as to give, within the time allotted to private members' business by the Governor, namely, Friday, such time to Bills of private members and to resolutions as may be decided by the Speaker. By your regulations you have circumscribed your power merely to allotting time—

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar, I think that is a mere repetition.

MR. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I have finished, Sir, and I think I have made my point quite clear.

MR. SPEAKER: This is an application under section 117—there is no doubt about it, and such an application may be made either by an official or a non-official member. In this case it has been made by a non-official member, so it must come on a non-official day. Today is fixed for non-official business. So far as the contention made by Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar is concerned that the rules requiring the fixing of a day for resolutions have not been complied with, I hold the view that this does not come under the category of resolution because a resolution can be moved only on such matters on which the Provincial Government has got a responsibility. The subject

which has been sought to be discussed in this motion does not come within the responsibility of the Provincial Government. So it cannot be regarded as a resolution: it should be treated as an ordinary motion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Why then Appendix III was referred to?

Mr. SPEAKER: The rules and procedure for a motion have been complied with in this case, *e.g.*, ten days' notice for discussion in the House. Over and above this, the leaders of different parties were consulted by letters before fixing today for the discussion of the motion as to whether they have got any objection to the same; it was also made clear that if a reply was not received within a certain time it should be inferred that they have no objection. In my opinion, this is a matter which comes under the general category of motions, and not under the category of resolutions and as such the provision for ballot does not apply in this case. Besides, the notices of resolutions and Bills which require 21 days before these may be taken up were not ripe for being fixed up for today. So the question of balloting of resolutions and Bills does not arise here. I hold that the fixing of the motion in question for today was done rightly.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, you were pleased to observe, Sir, before you adjourned this House for prayer that notice was given to me and to the Chief Whip of the Congress Assembly Party. I am afraid, Sir, you have been mis-informed on this matter. We were informed, I believe, on the 21st July that you have fixed the 26th July for motions under rule 117. We were not informed what the particular motion was. None of the members received any notice of this particular motion before the 24th. Therefore, Sir, I wish you would correct the impression that either myself or the Chief Whip of the Congress Assembly Party got proper notice of this motion. We did not get any notice of this motion before the 24th. Whether you consider that as sufficient notice is a different matter.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has let the cat out of the bag. It now appears that they are not quibbling over the procedure or manner of fixing of today's business but they are quibbling over the subject-matter of the motion. It is obvious why they have raised the point of order. Sir, the point is whether you gave timely notice to the leaders of the different parties.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: This is no point, this is quibbling. Sir, you have heard the observations of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and before you do say what you have to say on his observations I pray that no quibbling is allowed.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The point is you gave timely notice to leaders of different parties signifying your intention to allot today for taking up motions under rule 117. The question is whether the notice about fixation of today's business was given or not. It appears the Leader of the Opposition did receive a notice but it did not mean he received a copy of the motion.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: That is not the point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Tafazzal Ali.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion that the Assembly is of opinion that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal through the Hon'ble the Speaker of the Bengal Legislative Assembly requesting His Excellency to convey to His Excellency the Governor-General of India the emphatic protest of this

Assembly against the eviction of the Bengali immigrants in different parts of the Assam Valley and urge upon His Excellency the Governor-General of India to issue a directive on His Excellency the Governor of Assam to stop this eviction of the helpless Bengali immigrants in Assam and to rehabilitate those persons whose hearths and homes have been destroyed along with other belongings.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: I rise to a point of order. I submit the motion as moved is inadmissible, is incompetent and against the rules. The motion is inadmissible because this is not a matter which is the primary concern of this Provincial Government, and what is primary concern of the Provincial Government will be clear on a reference to the rules. With your leave I will ask you to refer to the rules. May I first of all draw, Sir, your attention to the definition of motion in rule 1 of the Assembly Procedure Rules. Motion means a proposal made by a member for the consideration of the Assembly relating to any matter which may be discussed by the Assembly, and includes an amendment.

Then, Sir, with regard to the form in which this motion has been tabled I shall have to draw your attention to the rules governing resolutions. The motion runs thus: The Assembly is of opinion that an humble address be presented to His Excellency, etc. I will only mention at this stage that it has been laid down that when you have got to present an address you should not put in "The Assembly is of opinion". To that I shall refer later, but having regard to the form may I draw your attention to the rules governing Resolutions and then to the rules governing Motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Gupta, I have already ruled that it does not come within the purview of resolutions.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Yes, Sir, you have ruled so. I am referring to the rules relating to motions. I won't take much time. It is as well that I would refer you to rule 85 and to rule 86.

Now, Sir, this is a matter which does not concern primarily any matter within the cognizance of this Legislature or within the jurisdiction of any Minister of this Government. Then we shall have to look at the rules governing motions. Now with regard to motions if we look at Chapter IV we find that a matter requiring the decision of the Assembly is brought forward by means of a question put by the Speaker on a motion proposed by the Speaker himself or by any other member. A member who wishes to move a motion other than a motion for which a specified period is otherwise prescribed shall give notice of his intention to the Secretary ten days before the meeting at which he intends to move the motion. Of course there is a proviso, *viz.*, "Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, admit at any time any motion at shorter notice than that prescribed by any rule or may admit a motion without notice".

Mr. SPEAKER: I can tell you at this stage that this motion was not admitted under the proviso but notice was given long before ten days.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: If we then come to resolutions we shall have to refer to rule 95, which runs thus: "Save in so far as is otherwise provided by the Act or by these rules, no discussion of a matter of general public interest shall take place otherwise than on a resolution moved in accordance with these rules, except with the consent of the Speaker and of the Minister to whose department the motion relates." Therefore, Sir, a motion has got to relate to the department of a Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is about special motions and this motion does not come within the category of a special motion.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Then it is not a motion but it is an address under rule 117?

Mr. SPEAKER: Exactly so.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: For that no rule has been prescribed in the Standing Orders. That is the position. If that is the position I submit, Sir, as is well known in matters where no specific provision is made in the Act or in the rules governing us we have got to follow the rules of Parliament. That is well known and therefore on that point I would draw your attention to May's Parliamentary Practice regarding the rules applicable to an address to the Governor.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Is it mandatory?

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: It is not mandatory if you want to throw away all forms and procedure and decency in the air but otherwise it is.

Mr. SPEAKER: Am I not correct to hold that you made mention of this when you addressed the House regarding the form? I think this is going to be a repetition.

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: I then come to the next point which makes this motion absolutely incompetent. This motion seeks to present an address to the Governor and to request the Governor to ask the Governor-General to issue a directive to the Ministry of Assam (cries of "To the Governor of Assam" from the Government benches). Now, Sir, the matter of persons inhabiting that land and enjoying land and the matter of rehabilitation is a subject within the ministerial field. It will not be questioned that this is a matter which is within the ministerial field of the Assam Government. I submit, Sir, that law does not authorise or empower the Governor-General in the exercise of his superintendence to issue any directive to any Ministry for subjects within the ministerial field of that Ministry. You will find that the power of superintendence of the Governor-General is confined to matters which lie within the discretion or individual judgment of the Governor but that power cannot be exercised and you cannot ask the Governor-General to exercise the power, namely, giving a directive regarding a matter which is within the ministerial field. That makes the whole thing incompetent. Sir, you will have to consider, firstly, whether a matter not within the primary concern of this Province can be discussed and whether we can adopt a resolution like that. This will open up a dangerous precedent and it will open the way to recriminations in different legislatures. If the Assam Legislature pass a vote of censure on this House for having discussed this motion there will be none there to defend or repel that, or for the matter of that the Assam Legislature may pass a vote of censure on the Speaker here for allowing a matter to be discussed which was not within the competence of this Provincial Legislature. Therefore, Sir, you will find that it has been limited to matters which are within the jurisdiction of a particular Ministry or Government and one cannot possibly discuss, take decision and pass a resolution upon matters which are outside the limits of this Provincial Government. And as I have said you are asking the Governor-General to issue a directive which he cannot do. I do not think the point will be controverted by anybody that the Governor-General has no power—(Khan Bahadur A. M. ABDUL HAMID: It is not admitted. Might or might not have power.) All right; he might or might not have power.

The next point to consider is this. The subject has been brought by way of an address to the Governor and, Sir, your predecessor in office has clearly laid down—I am referring to his decision given on the 8th April, 1938—that generally speaking controversial matters in which there might be scope of a difference of opinion should not be presented to the Governor unless they come within the specific provisions of sections 308 and 90 of the Government of India Act. Otherwise our Standing Rules contemplating discussion of public matters will be nugatory. I am therefore of opinion that in view of the constitutional distinctions made between matters lying in the discretion of the Governor and matters lying within the scope of ministerial responsibility and in view of the Government of India Act and our

Standing Orders, a procedure of address is intended for such purposes as lie within the scope of the Governor's power in his discretion or for which there is no ministerial responsibility and for which the Assembly might desire to express and place its views before the Governor who is otherwise inaccessible to the Assembly. No address would therefore lie against any action of the Executive Government, for the law provides for no action to be taken by the Legislature in such matters. Here is an action contemplated against the Executive Government of Assam. Here is a proposal which refers to a matter which is within the ministerial responsibility of the Government of Assam, and, as such, the address cannot be made for that purpose. Your predecessor has clearly ruled that an address is contemplated in a matter coming under sections 90 and 308 and the amendment to that made by the Federal Court. That being so, I hope you will not allow this resolution to be discussed, firstly, because I still maintain, though I bow down to your ruling, that having regard to the rules and standing orders this is a matter which must be governed by the rules governing ordinary motions; secondly, that an address to the Governor should be on non-controversial matters which lie within the discretion of the Governor and not regarding matters which lie within the ministerial responsibility; and thirdly,—and this I consider very serious indeed—you should never countenance that this Legislature should pass by means of a motion certain judgment upon the conduct of persons of another Government. Those people are not here to give us the facts of the case. Those people cannot come here to explain their attitude and, as such, any effort to pass a resolution in any legislature against the activities of Ministers of other Provinces would be a most dangerous thing. It will cut at the root of provincial autonomy that has been granted to the Province. This resolution seeks also to undermine the little rights that we may have derived under the Government of India Act of 1935 by importing a controversial matter and asking for intervention of His Excellency the Governor. Sir, your predecessor in office ruled that in matters concerning ministerial responsibility an address is not permissible, and if that is not permissible in regard to matters which concern this province and this House and the Ministers here, it is much more applicable with regard to the conduct of a different Provincial Government and a different Ministry. I hope, Sir, as Speaker who is the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House you have a very heavy responsibility as to whether you will allow such a dangerous precedent to be opened. Sir, I am not discussing the merits of the question. If the special motion is taken up, then the question of merit will arise. I now ask you, Sir, to give your ruling on my point of order.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I want to say a few words on this point of order. I know, Sir, the intention of the Opposition in raising this point of order is only to delay the proceedings of the House—

Mr. J. C. GUPTA: Sir, I strongly object to the insinuation made by the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Now, Sir, I want to say something which will go to assist you in coming to a decision. In the other House the question of postal strike was raised and it was also discussed if it was within the jurisdiction of the provincial legislature to discuss a matter which concerns the Central Government. It was accepted by the Hon'ble the President that as the matter concerns the welfare of the people of this Province it is within the competence of the provincial legislature to discuss that matter. So, the matter was discussed there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Gupta has raised three points: The motion is inadmissible; this House is incompetent to discuss it, and it goes against the rules. So far as the question of its admissibility is concerned, that has been disposed of by me in my previous ruling.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, before you give your ruling will you kindly hear certain additional facts that I want to place before you?

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BASU: I want to raise some points.

Mr. SPEAKER: You should have done that at the proper time—
(Loud noise from the Opposition benches as well as from the Government side.)

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALEK: Sir, will you give me a chance to place my points before you?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not at this stage when I am going to give my ruling—(Again there was noise in the House.) Order, order. You should know how to behave. I have already heard from one of the brilliant legal luminaries of the Calcutta High Court Bar. I have heard on the point fully and I do not think that further discussion is necessary—(Again there was loud noise in the House.) In this confusion, I invoke the assistance of the leaders of the parties.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, Khen Bahadur Mohammed Ali rose after the speech of Mr. Gupta. You allowed him to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed one member to speak from your side and another from the Government side. I did not allow even Dr. Malek to speak when he wanted to.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Dr. Malek was only interrupting you, but Mr. Ghose wants to place certain additional facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you do not allow the business of the House to go on peacefully it will be my reluctant duty to take the help of the power that is vested in me. I am very reluctant to do that for I always want your help and co-operation—(Loud noise and interruptions from both sides of the House.) I have already said that this is a matter which does not come within the definition of resolution and within the subject of ministerial responsibility of this Province.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: You cannot give a ruling before hearing the additional grounds which two members of this side of the House want to place.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, I have got new points to raise.

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is a new point of order I will hear you afterwards, for before this point of order is disposed of no new point of order can be raised.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is not a new of order that is wanted to be raised but they want to place additional grounds on the point of order that has already been raised.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to hear any more grounds. I have heard from one of the best lawyers and I do not need any further advice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, the Opposition is most anxious to help you by placing before you all the grounds and materials on which a wise ruling can be given, and the Opposition expects that you will be pleased in your wisdom to give the Opposition a chance to place all the grounds in favour of their contention.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you rise to give your decision, Mr. Satish Chandra Bose stood up.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member told me that he had a fresh point of order. He gave me to understand that he had a fresh point of order. It is not for anybody else to say that he wants to say on this point of order.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: It is an additional fact. Before you arrive at a decision on this point, won't you give me a hearing?

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: I was submitting additional points on the same point of order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: You please hear all of us before you come to a decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, don't you think that sufficient discussion has been made on this matter?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Bose stood up to submit his point before you rose to give your decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as this honourable member is concerned, he told me that he had a fresh point of order. I told him that he could not raise a fresh point of order before disposing of the one under consideration and that I would allow him time after a decision was arrived at on this point of order.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Only two gentlemen rose on this side before you were on your legs; one of them was Mr. Ghose. (Cries of "no", "no" from Government benches and cries of "yes", "yes" from Opposition benches.) But Mr. Ghose had to resume his seat because Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali got up in the middle.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not allow him very much time. I only allowed him two minutes' time.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, you may be pleased to allow a new member, who has additional grounds and who rose before you were on your legs to put before you his points and I am sure you will not regret your decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I know from the Leader of the Opposition how many members want to speak on this point of order from his party.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, two members of my party were on their legs before you stood up. (Cries of "no" "no" from the Government benches and cries of "yes" "yes" from the Opposition benches.) I would request you, Sir, to allow these two members to put their submissions before you and then to give your ruling.

Sir, if I may say without meaning any offence, do not allow the atmosphere of this House to affect you. That would be detrimental to the privileges of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am always very anxious to have assistance from both sides of the House and I implore your help on every point, but you must realise that we have got to transact some business and not to discuss and debate only and go away without coming to any decision. The matter before the House is a particular motion and I think we should have some discussion on that also. That should be the lookout of all concerned because I cannot allow points of order being discussed *ad infinitum*. Mr. Ghose, I hope you will finish in 5 minutes and will raise new points which have not been traversed by Mr. Gupta.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN (Dacca): On a point of order, Sir. Every member of this House is interested in the procedure that has to be adopted here. When we want a ruling from you on a point of order, we want the ruling as a matter of right, but we cannot speak on a point of order as a matter of right. Sir, it is for you to seek the assistance of this House. Therefore, if you allow only one member to speak on the point of order and if you feel that you are in a position to give a ruling on the facts available to you, then, Sir, no member of this House can claim as a matter of right

"I shall place new facts before you and therefore you allow me to speak". Therefore, if you allow members to speak on that claim, whether it is a claim of the leader of a party or it is a claim of an individual member, I am afraid, you will be creating a dangerous precedent and like your predecessor it will so happen that the business of the House will never be transacted. I would, therefore, respectfully draw your attention to this aspect of the question and I would respectfully request you to limit the discussion.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Is that a point of order? If he has a right to advise you, we also have a similar right to advise you.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this case I have acceded to the request of the Leader of the Opposition without creating any precedent as a special case.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Mr. Gupta has said that it will create a dangerous precedent to allow this motion to be discussed in this House. What I have to say is this that under the constitution the Governor-General has no right, no authority to issue any directive to the Governor of any province in such a matter. It is not merely to say that it should not be treated as a dangerous precedent but what I say is that the Governor-General has no right, no authority to issue such a directive. If you will read section 54 of the Government of India Act—

Mr. SPEAKER: Please refer to the section without reading it.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: From the Instrument of Instructions issued to the Governor and the Governor-General, you will find that in the provincial sphere while the executive power is vested in the Governor, he has a Council of Ministers to advise him on certain matters whereas other matters are within his discretion and individual judgment. On matters which are within the ministerial responsibility, under the Instrument of Instructions the Governor must abide by the advice given by the Ministers and section 54(2) reads: "Before giving any directions under this section, the Governor-General shall satisfy himself that nothing in the directions requires the Governor to act in any manner inconsistent with any Instrument of Instructions issued to the Governor by His Majesty."

Now, Sir, one of the preambles to the Instrument of Instructions issued to the Governor reads as follows: Whereas, at the same time, it is the purpose of the Act that the Governments and Legislatures should be free in their own sphere to pursue their own policy; and in this sphere no directions can be given by the Governor-General to the Governor. The Governor-General has competence, if he has any, only in such matters as come within the province of the individual discretion and judgment of the Governor alone. In other matters he has no right to give any direction.

As such, I maintain that this resolution is not in order as the Governor-General cannot issue any direction. Therefore, it should be ruled out of order.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, I am urging some additional grounds. Whatever rights the Assembly possesses are by virtue of the Government of India Act known as the Constitution Act. We have to look within the four corners of the Statute to find out what are our rights and privileges.

Now, we have no right under the Statute to present an address to the Governor in matters relating to a different Province. Whatever rights the Governor has are laid down in sections 308 and 90 of the Government of India Act. In cases where the members of the Provincial Assembly seek an amendment of certain provisions of the Act or Orders-in-Council, the Provincial Assembly can present to the Governor an address for submission to His Majesty praying that His Majesty may be pleased to communicate—

Mr. SPEAKER: You are referring to section 308?

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Yes, Sir. We are circumscribed within this section and no other section applies. We cannot present an address in matters concerning the affairs of another Province. And then Sir, as the Statutory Commission has observed each Province is mistress in her own house. Therefore unless we have the right under the Constitution Act to present an address to the Governor in matters relating to different Provinces in respect of which other Provinces enjoy full autonomy we have no right to present an address in matters like immigration as contemplated in this motion. In so far as we seek by this action to interfere with the affairs of a different Province it will be looked upon as unwarranted interference on the part of this Assembly to meddle with other peoples' business. We must think thrice before we present an address. (The Hon'ble Khair Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: What about South Africa?) We should not invite a rebuff from the Governor or the Governor-General. This Assembly will look very small if by acting in this way we invite rebuffs from the Governor or the Governor-General. Rule 117 of the Assembly Procedure Rules lays down that an address from the Assembly to the Governor shall be presented through the Speaker after a motion made and carried in the Assembly. To what matter does it relate? Not to an address presented to the Governor in matters relating to another province but in matters contemplated under the Act, i.e., under section 308 of the Government of India Act and no other.

Now, Sir, the rule-making power is given under section 84 of the Government of India Act. This rule-making power can be exercised only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act and for no other purpose. For instance, a Chamber of a Provincial Legislature may make rules for regulating, subject to the provisions of this Act, their procedure and the conduct of their business. That is to say, Sir, you cannot make rules contrary to the provisions of the Act for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act. I read rule 117 as the rule framed for carrying out the provisions of section 308 of the Constitution Act. You cannot go beyond section 308. That is my point and I think I have made my point clear. If, Mr. Speaker, you hold that the rules are framed on the basis of the Constitution Act, rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure has no application and does not govern the present case before us. If however, Mr. Speaker, you hold that it does, I will say that this rule is *ultra vires* of the statute, that is the Government of India Act. You cannot make rules in respect of matters inconsistent with the Act or in respect of matters not contemplated by the Constitution Act. Therefore, Sir, my submission to you is that this point of order should be maintained.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed two honourable members to speak on this point of order. I allow Mr. Fazlur Rahman to speak as a special case for five minutes.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the contention of the Opposition that this directive cannot be given by the Governor-General under section 54 is not tenable. You will kindly refer to section 52 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 52(1) runs thus: "In the exercise of his functions the Governor shall have the following special responsibilities, that is to say:—

- (a) the prevention of any grave menace to the peace or tranquillity of the Province or any part thereof."

You know, Sir, that this problem of the Bengal immigrants in the Province of Assam means a grave menace to the peace and tranquillity of the Province of Assam. You know, Sir, that law and order are being enforced and consequently it means a grave menace to the peace and tranquillity of the Province of Assam.

Now, Sir, if you refer to sub-section (3) of section 52, you will find "and in so far as any special responsibility of the Governor is involved, he

shall, in the exercise of his functions, exercise his individual judgment as to the action to be taken." Therefore it is a thing which comes under the individual judgment of the Governor of the Province of Assam.

Then we come to section 54. There it is said: "In so far as the Governor of a Province is by or under this Act required to act in his discretion or to exercise his individual judgment, he shall be under the general control of, and comply with such particular directions, if any, as may from time to time be given to him by the Governor-General in his discretion." Therefore, Sir, it is a fit subject on which the Governor-General can give a direction, and it is a motion which is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the honourable members who have spoken on this point of order and I make no reservation in admitting that I have been benefited by the discussion.

The subject-matter of the motion is that Bengalees are suffering in some part of British India, and any matter that concerns the sufferings of the Bengalees will, I hope, receive the sympathetic consideration of all legislators of Bengal. As for myself I do not think I should be justified in shutting out such a matter from being discussed in the Province whose inhabitants are suffering in some part of India. (Cries of "Hear, hear".)

With regard to admissibility I have already made it clear that it does not come within the purview of resolutions because it does not contemplate any subjects which are within the ministerial responsibility of this Province. So it comes under ordinary motions. It also does not come within the category of a special motion because that also contemplates that the Minister concerned should give his consent to it.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What about your notice, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not quite follow you.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I am asking about your own notice. You say that it does not come under resolutions. May I hand over this notice to you?

Mr. SPEAKER: You may hand it over to the Secretary and he will look into it. If there is any mistake you can come to my chamber.

Now, the point that has been raised is that the Government of India Act does not provide for such a motion and reference has been made to certain sections—section 308, section 52 and section 54 I believe. I think it comes within the jurisdiction of the individual discretion of the Provincial Governor contemplated in section 52. A ruling of this House has been referred to by Mr. Gupta. I have gone through that ruling. That ruling, I should think, rather goes against the point that has been raised in this matter because there it has been stated clearly that the procedure under rule 117 of the Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules can be availed of by the members of this House in which there is no other remedy; and the subject-matter of this motion is one which cannot be brought before this House in any other form except under the provision of rule 117. It has been said that according to the ruling referred to if the matter is a controversial one, it should not be allowed. I cannot imagine that in the Provincial Legislature of Bengal consisting of the Bengalees and of those who live in Bengal, there will be any controversy with regard to a matter which concerns the sufferings of Bengalees in another province. That view is strengthened by the fact—

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE: Is the resolution being moved from the chair?

Mr. SPEAKER: That view is strengthened by the fact that I have received notices of two amendments from the members of the Opposition—

one from Mr. Datta, no less a person than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in which there is nothing to show that he is against the main motion. Only certain procedure has been suggested, and that is a matter for discussion in the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It will not be moved.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a different matter. Then, with regard to the question of recriminations referred to by Mr. Gupta, I think that in a matter like this the conduct of those responsible for the measure should not be attacked in a way which may be tantamount to recriminations because they have not got the right or opportunity to defend themselves in this House. This should be an innocent resolution and speeches which will be made in this connection will not, I hope, be provocative. In this view of the matter I think that the motion that has been tabled should be allowed.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Assembly is of opinion—

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already moved. There is no necessity of repeating the motion.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: Sir, my sense of duty to my Bengali brethren crying in agony in the wilderness of Assam has prompted me to move this motion in this House. I hope and trust that all sections of this House will give this motion the consideration that it deserves, and I am confident that the honourable members will rise above party and communal considerations in discussing this motion.

Sir, all members of this House have heard of the evictions in some parts of the Assam Valley. These evictions are an offspring of a system known as the pernicious "line system" in Assam. This system can very shortly be described as a replica of the Pegging Act in South Africa. I may also mention to the honourable members of this House, Sir, that on the 16th March, 1943, from the Upper House of the Bengal Legislature an address was presented to the Governor of Bengal to abolish this very "line system" of Assam, and I am very glad to remind the honourable members of this House that that motion before the Upper House was passed unanimously and agreed to even by my friends who occupy the other side of the House in this chamber. I may also remind my friends that it is not my intention to rake up the discussion on the points of order that had been raised. But just as a passing reference I may mention in this connection that the conduct of the South African Government was also the subject of another address on the same day moved by no less a person than the Leader of the Congress Party in the Upper House on the 16th March, 1943—by Mr. Lalit Chandra Das. That address was also unanimously presented to the Governor of this Province. Sir, I hope you will excuse me for this little digression.

Sir, the "line system" is a sort of demarcation. A line has been drawn at a certain place beyond which the immigrants from Bengal are not allowed to acquire land either by purchase, grant, or settlement and, what is most astounding, even by marriage. If an immigrant marries an Assamese girl, the children of that marriage, because of the line system that is obtaining, will not be able to inherit the property of the mother, even though under the personal law of the mother the children are heirs of the legacy of the mother. This is the state of things there.

Sir, I know I have to modify my speech according to the observations made by you and I will try my utmost to confine myself to points which may not irritate either my friends here who may or may not agree with me, or my friends outside the Assembly Chamber.

Sir, this "line system" may be considered from different points of view: There is the legal aspect of the line system, the economic aspect of the line system and the moral aspect of the line system obtaining in Assam. Sir, so far as the economic aspect is concerned, Bengal is one of the most,

may the most, densely populated province in India and is as densely populated as two of the most densely populated countries in Europe, namely, Belgium and England and Wales. The population of Bengal per square mile is 779 according to the Census of 1941. On the other hand the Province of Assam is one of those provinces in British India which are very thinly populated. There the density of population according to the census of 1940-41 will be near about 190 per square mile only. In these circumstances, Sir, it is only natural that Bengal, where the density of population is so high, will look to her good neighbour, and I expect her to be friendly neighbour, to spare some lands for the hungry sons of Bengal who find it necessary to go to Assam and depend upon the goodness of the Assamese brethren.

Sir, when these immigrants from Bengal go to Assam they cultivate only the virgin soil. I think I am not complete in my description if I stop here. They cultivate only those lands which are called jungle lands, lands which are not touched by a pair of tongs by the people of Assam. Immigrants from Bengal go and cultivate those lands and out of those lands they produce food that caters not only for the people of Assam, not only for the Muslims of Assam, but for the majority population of Assam who happens to be Hindus, they cater not only for the Province of Assam but they cater for people outside the Province of Assam. They have turned these jungle lands into lands fit for cultivation. They have converted the jungle lands of Assam into lands producing milk and honey.

Sir, in this connection I may quote a report of an officer—I will name the officer, not just now but after some time after my friends become a little bit curious—one officer who was the Deputy Commissioner at that time of some district in Assam Valley. He submitted a report to the Census Commissioner in 1931. While referring to the district of Nowgong he spoke about these Bengali immigrants in these terms: “The people (meaning the immigrants) have brought in their wake wealth, industry and general prosperity to the whole district. They have improved the health of the countryside by clearing jungles and converting wilderness into prosperous villages. Their love and care for cattle are an object lesson to others. Government revenue has increased, trade and commerce have prospered.”

I am all the more happy, Sir, to speak out the name of the officer because that officer does not happen to be a Muslim. He happens to be a right-thinking Hindu gentleman. I do not know whether he was a Bengalee but I presume he was not a Bengalee but he was a Hindu gentleman whose name is Rai Bahadur P. G. Mukherjee, who was Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong in 1931. In spite of observations from men for whom it is physically impossible to have a communal bias for the immigrants, the Government of Assam did not do justice to the immigrants. I do not spare those Cabinets which were headed by Sir Muhammad Saadullah. I had personal discussion with him also. I realised from the discussion that he had certain difficulties in his way. All the same his Cabinets also on different occasions did not do what was expected of them to do. But one thing must be said about Sir Muhammad Saadullah's Government that he realised the justice of the claim of the immigrants and that was the reason of his nervousness in taking any drastic steps against these immigrants in spite of the decision of his Coalition Cabinet. But things are not going on well since the 25th February, 1946. Sir, I refrain, in order to respect your wishes and the sentiments of my friends of which I had a glimpse in course of the discussion on the points of order, from referring to the communal aspect of the decisions and the measures taken by the Government of Assam as far as practicable, but, Sir, it pains me to point out that in spite of the report of the nature which I have read out before the House, Bengali immigrants had always been treated as pariahs in Assam Valley. Undoubtedly some immigrants got lands but there are lakhs of immigrants who have been refused land in spite of the fact—undeniable fact—that there

are plenty of spare lands available in the Province of Assam, particularly in Assam Valley, apart from the hilly districts, I mean in the plain districts.

I had occasion, Sir, to see some of the grazing reserves which are the subject of discussion of both these provinces in and outside this Chamber. I have seen with my own eyes miles and miles of open lands standing in the district of Darrang where also evictions are taking place. I could not see a single human face nor a single buffalo or a cow. I enquired about the reason from one of the Ministers of the then Government of Assam with whom I was travelling. He had to tell me that the area of grazing reserves, the quantum of land available in the grazing reserves, is much in excess of the needs of the livestock of the Province of Assam. According to the agricultural statistics of Assam, 1940-41, there are 5,747,736 acres of uncultivated land, virgin soil. But Sir, settlement of land is being refused to the immigrants of Bengal in spite of their services to that Province. Sir, you will be surprised to know—

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already spoken for 15 minutes.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: I pray for another 15 minutes.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, the mover may be allowed to continue his speech and place his whole case before the House, because it needs very careful consideration. The subject is grave and the House ought to get the fullest scope to discuss it. If you have allowed the subject, it should not be shut out and the discussion should not be marred.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: I am grateful to my honourable friend.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will allow you 10 minutes more.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: My honourable friends will be surprised to know that most of the tea garden coolies who happen to be non-Muslims get land without any difficulty whatsoever, but restriction is imposed only on the Muslim immigrants when they go to Assam for land. This policy, Sir, directly brings into play section 298 of the Government of India Act which lays down that no one shall be refused land on grounds of race or religion only. So that section makes it illegal for the Government of Assam to refuse land only on the ground of religion or race. So far as the Congress point of view is concerned, I may remind the honourable members of this House that a declaration of the Indian National Congress in its Karachi session laid down that every citizen in India is free to move throughout India, to stay in any part of India, to acquire property and follow any trade or calling, and to be treated equally with regard to legal prosecution or legal protection in all parts of India. Both with regard to the provisions of the Government of India Act as well as in view of the declaration of the Indian National Congress about the fundamental rights of Indians—the refusal of the Government of Assam to settle lands with Bengalis on grounds of race and religion only are *ultra vires* of the Government of India Act as well as of the declaration of Congress on the fundamental rights of the Indians. Sir, does it lie in the mouths of men who condemn the South African Government for bringing in discriminatory legislations to support a Government that gives the same treatment to the sons of the same soil? I leave it to the House to consider. There is no justification for treatment of this nature to be meted out to the sons of the same soil.

Sir, I am giving some graphic pictures of what took place during the evictions. I have taken this from two booklets one of which has been published by no less a person than Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury who was at one time a Minister of the Government of Assam. He recorded the statements of 54 persons who migrated to Champapura Pathar, and I find in some of those statements that the houses of people who had lived there for long were destroyed. Those people took shelter in the grazing reserves. From those 54 statements I find that many persons built their homes in the grazing

reserves and lived there for 3 to 12 years and were carrying on their peaceful avocation. Even after such a period it has been thought necessary to evict those people from the grazing reserves. Sir, the present Ministry of Assam has taken shelter under a decision of Sir Md. Saadulla's Cabinet which was taken sometime back. I can also point out that the same Cabinet of Sir Md. Saadulla on the 2nd February, 1946, laid down that in all professional grazing reserves persons who have sown at least one crop should not be evicted, but should be allowed land in the reserves. Persons who have sown at least one crop on Government waste land should not be evicted but allowed settlement. In spite of the decision of the last Ministry the Congress Ministry is resorting to eviction.

I will quote two instances from a booklet published by one gentleman, Moslemuddin. He gave a graphic description. In one case a woman named Abirjan of 85 years of age was suffering from fever for 10 or 12 days. She was evicted in spite of her begging for some time to get rid of her malady. In another case in which the house of one Kalimuddin was destroyed, a Special Officer with Police, soldiers, and local inhabitants—it is a novel way of evicting people—went to the house of Kalimuddin and used elephants in demolishing his house. The wife of Kalimuddin was feeding her hungry children but she was not allowed to feed her children and then go out of the house. Her hearth and home were destroyed, her earthen pots were broken, and food was soiled. Sir, is this the way to evict people? Is this the proper application of the law of eviction? I will request all sections of the House to consider this matter dispassionately. Because one particular Minister or some Ministers in a Province belonging to Congress has or have a communal or racial outlook it does not logically follow that other Ministers of other Provinces will also become communal in their outlook. There must be good men and bad men in all parties. So my intention is not to condemn the Congress organisation as a whole, not to condemn any Ministry even in the Province of Assam, but my intention is to place before this House the facts in order to consider whether we should do our little bit to give relief to the sufferings of our brethren in Assam. Sir, I realise perfectly well that the interests of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam lie in concord and not in conflict. It does not augur well at this crucial moment of the history of India that these two Provinces should fall out on a matter like this—on a matter which can be easily settled by amicable methods and by giving relief to the sufferers. So far as I am concerned, my attitude would have been the same even if the sufferers were non-Muslims. So, Sir, I would appeal to all sections of the House to consider this motion dispassionately and come to a decision, to contribute their mite, to do what they can for the amelioration of the condition of our distressed brethren in the province of Assam.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the House for consideration.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের তোফাজ্জেল আলী সাহেব যে motion আজকে House এ এনেছেন তা কয়েকটি কাবণে আমি oppose করতে চাচ্ছি (Shame, shame, cries—shame on you).

Sir., তাবা গোলমাল করে যে সমস্যা আমাকে বলতে দিচ্ছে না সেই সমস্যা যেন পাই। তা জানিয়ে রাখছি। (Shame.) আমি কি বলব আগে তা শুনুন, তারপর shame, shame কববেন। তখন আমার উপর shame হবে না, আপনাদের নিজেদের উপর হবে (cries, cheers)। আমি oppose করতে চাচ্ছি এই জন্য, আমার বন্ধু চান পাকিস্তান এদেশে, অর্থাৎ মুসলমান রাজত্ব করতে। যদি মুসলমান রাজত্বের নমুনা হয়েচে, আপনাবা appeal কবছেন সেই বৃটিশের কাছে যে বৃটিশ আমাদের বাংলাব রাজত্ব—ভারতের রাজত্ব—আপনাদেরই হাত থেকে নিয়েছে (noise, cries). বাংলা থেকে কেন, ভারত কেন—সমস্ত পৃথিবী থেকে। (Noise.) যদি really মুসলমান রাজত্ব চান, পাকিস্তান চান, তাহলে appeal করতে হয় না বন্ধু। ভোটের সময় অন্যের ভোট নেবার জন্য পাকিস্তান----- (loud noise).

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Zaman please come to the point. You should confine yourself to the subject matter of the motion.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আমি দেখাচ্ছি কেন oppose করছি। সেই কারণগুলি যদি না পরিকার করে বলি তাহ'লে বদনাম হবে। আমি oppose করছি এই কারণে—এখানে আমাদের যে Britishers রা আছে তাদের উপর rely করব কেন? যারা India'র লোকের সর্বনাশ করেছে তাদের কাছে আমরা কোন appeal ই করতে পারি না। (Voice—চলে যান, চলে যান।) চলে যাবো কোথায়? আর যাবই বা কেনম করে? আমাদের দেশ হচ্ছে বাংলা দেশ। আমি জানি আমার ভাইরা বজুতা কবে “ব্যাঙ্গলী” (Bengalee) বলে চীৎকার করছেন। অথচ অনেকে নিজেকে ব্যাঙ্গলী (Bengalee) বলে স্বীকার করতে চান না (noise—cheers)। আজ ব্যাঙ্গলীর জন্য দরদ হয়েছে। আমি জানাতে চাই কংগ্রেস প্রেসিডেন্ট আসামের তায়বুলা (?) তখন সত্যাপ্রহ কবেছিলেন যখন সাদুলা Ministry এই লাইন প্রথা সৃষ্টি কবেছিলেন। যখন হাতী দিয়ে ঘর দরজা ভেঙ্গে দিয়ে..... (Shame, shame, cries, noise) আমার সেই দরদী বন্ধু তখন কোথায় ছিলেন? যখন হক সাহেব চাঁদা তুলে আসামের লোকদের দিয়েছিলেন তখন তাঁর সামনে এবং তাঁর ট্রেনের সামনে তারা পিকেটিং করেছিলেন। সেই কথা আজ আমি তাদের সমরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই, সেই লাইন প্রথার কথা, তখন তারা গিয়েছিলেন কোথায়? (Noise, cries.) সাদুলা Ministry যখন কবেছে, তখন যাক, আর অন্যো যখন করেন, তখন বলা হয় না। আমি বলছি না এটা অন্যায় নয় (voices—তাই নাকি?) (Noise, laughter.) শুনুন, হাসবেন না। আগে কেঁদে নিন না, তারপর হাসবেন। যদি সত্যিকার অন্যায় হয়ে থাকে, তাব বিরুদ্ধে জেহাদ ঘোষণা করা দরকার— appeal করে নয়। আজকে বাংলা থেকে—তারত থেকে—মুসলমান রাজত্ব মুসলমানের হাত থেকে কেড়ে কে নিয়েছে? যারা কেড়ে নিয়েছেন তাদের কাছে appeal কবে নয়, নিবেদন কবে নয়। যদি সত্যিকার অন্যায় হয়ে থাকে তবে অগ্রসর হোন। সাদুলা Ministry যে লাইন প্রথা প্রবর্তন কবেছিলেন তাদের সেই লাইন প্রথা ভাঙিয়ে অন্য লাইন প্রথা কবে সেই সাদুলাকে “বয়কট” করুন। কিন্তু এই বকম ভাবে appeal কবে দেখাতে চাচ্ছেন যে আপনাবা আসামের ব্যাঙ্গলীদের প্রতি খুব দরদী। যাবা এখনও ব্যাঙ্গলী বলে নিজেদের পরিচয় দিলে গালাগালি বলেন তাবা এখন বলছে আমবাও ব্যাঙ্গলী। এত সস্তায় আওয়াজ না তুলে, জয়চাকের বদলে ধামা বিনে চাপুর পুপ কবে বাজাও। (loud laughter.) এত সস্তায় কাজ হয় না বন্ধুগণ। যদি দরদ থাকে তাহ'লে সেই আসামে যাওয়া দরকার এবং যদি অন্যায় হয়ে থাকে তাহ'লে তাব প্রতিকারের জন্য চেষ্টা করা দরকার। আজ নতুন Constitution আসছে। যেখানে আমবা Constitution form করতে যাচ্ছি—যেখানে আমরা সকলে হিন্দু মুসলমান মিলে স্বীকার কবছি যে আজ আমরা উপযুক্ত হয়েছি—আব সেই সময় কিনা, সেই মুহূর্তে, আজ পনের দিনও হয় নাই ভোট হয়ে গেছে, আমবা appeal করছি সেই Viceroy এব কাছে “তুমি দয়া কর” (shame, shame, cries). পৃথিবীর লোকে জানুক আমবা নাবালক; আমরা উপযুক্ত নয় বাজত্ব করবাব, আমরা উপযুক্ত নই Ministry গঠন কববাব; তাব জন্য এই আবেদন নিবেদন। এখানে ইংরেজ প্রীতি, তোঘামাদের স্তর ফুটে উঠেছে অনেকের বজুতার মধ্যে। তাই আমি বলছি এই resolution আনাব মানে হ'ল সস্তায় নাম কেনা, শুধু টিনে বাড়ি দেওয়া। তাই বলছি এই বকম resolutionএব কোন মানে হতে পারে না। যখন লাইন প্রথা সৃষ্টি হয়েছিল, কয়েক বৎসর আগে যখন লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছিল, তখন যাবা ছিলেন এই Houseএ ও এই Houseএর বাইবে তাঁরা তখন কি কবেছিলেন? এই কথা তাদের সমরণ কবে দিতে চাই। ভোটের সময় ৫০।৬০ হাজার লাঠি যেতে পারে যেখানে, তখন আসামে কত লোক নিয়ে গিয়েছিলেন? কেবলমাত্র “লডকে লেঙ্গা পাকিস্তান” বললেই হবে না। একবার লড়ে দেখুন। যদি অন্যায় হয়ে থাকে তবে আসাম গভর্নমেন্টকে পয়লা ঠাণ্ডা করুন। সাদুলাকে ধবে নিয়ে আসুন। তাকে বলুন, তোমরা কবলে কি? কাজেই আমি বলছি আপনাবা বীরদর্পে অগ্রসর হউন। দেখবেন আমবাও আপনাদের সঙ্গে যেতে প্রস্তুত (cheers)। লড়াবর সময় খালাত ভাইকে নিয়ে তাদের সঙ্গে লড়ে দেখুন। যদি সত্যিকার কাজ কবতে হয় তাহ'লে টিনে বাড়ি দিয়ে জয়চাকের আওয়াজে হবে না। দুধে পোট ভরল না, এখন ফ্যান দিয়ে পোট ভরাও। (Cheers, laughter.) এইটুকুই বলেই আমি শেষ কবছি।

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two amendments to the special motion in the names of Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta and Mr. Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharjee.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I do not intend to move my amendment.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I also do not want to move.

MUHAMMAD HABIBULLA CHOUDHURY: Mr Speaker, Sir, আজকে যে সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে আমরা আলোচনা করছি, বাংলা দেশের অর্থনৈতিক, রাজনৈতিক ও অন্যান্য সব বকম সমস্যার সঙ্গে সেটা ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে জড়িত। আমি আমার বন্ধু তফাজ্জল আলি সাহেবকে অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। এই প্রস্তাব সকলের আগে তিনিই আনলেন পবিশদে। বাংলার কাউন্সিলে এই প্রস্তাব আগেই এসেছে। এই শ্রেণীর প্রস্তাব বাংলায় এসেছিলো এই প্রথম।

বাংলা দেশে বিশেষ করে পূর্ববঙ্গে দু'নিয়ার যে কোন দেশের চেয়ে ঘন বসতি। পৃথিবীর যে কোন দেশের দিকে তাকাই না কেন, আমরা দেখতে পাব বাংলা দেশের মত লোক সংখ্যা কোন দেশেই নাই। U. S. A. এর লোক সংখ্যা হচ্ছে এক বর্গ মাইলে ৪৭ জন মাত্র—জার্মানিতে ৩৬৫ জন, ফ্রান্সে ২০০ জন; এমন কি আমাদের বোম্বে প্রেসিডেন্সীতে—বর্গ মাইলে ২৮৩ জন লোক, পাকিস্তানে ২৮৭ জন লোক বাস করে। পূর্ববঙ্গে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি, এক একটি জেলায় শুনেছি এক হাজারেবও বেশী লোক ঠাসাঠাসিভাবে বাস করছে এক বর্গ মাইলে। Mr. Speaker, Sir, আপনি জানান যে বাংলা দেশে জমিদারের অত্যাচার বহুদিন থেকে আকাশ চুঁয়েছে। বাংলার গরীব দঃখী, কৃষক প্রজা জমিদারের অত্যাচারে বহুদিন থেকে তাদের সর্বস্ব খুইয়ে বসে আছে। বাংলা দেশে একদিকে জমিদারের অত্যাচার, আর একদিকে ঠাসাঠাসি বসতি। এইজন্য বাংলার জনসাধারণ বহুদিন থেকে মাটির নেশায় ঘর ছেড়ে দেশ দেশান্তরে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে। বাংলার গরবে, বাংলার গ্রামে যে সব জায়গা শাসাশয়লা হয়ে উঠেছে, সেই সব স্থানে যখন জমির অত্যাচার অনুভূত হতে লাগল তখন বাংলার দরিদ্র চাষী চব্বি এলাকায়—চলে গেল—আসামের বন জঙ্গলে গেল। দু'মুঠো অনুরোধ আশায় তারা আসাম গিয়েছে, আনন্দ করবার জন্য যায়নি, শিলং এ বড় লোকের মত হাওয়া খাওয়ার জন্য যায়নি। পেটের দুঃখে জমিদারের অত্যাচারে আসামের দিকে তাদের দৃষ্টি আকৃষ্ট হয়েছে। আমি শুনেছি, আপনার জেলায় এক বিরাট জমিদার সন্তানের মূখে শুনেছি, তাঁদের দেশের জমিদারবা নাকি বাংলার গরীব চাষীদের আসামে যাওয়ার বাস্তব দেখিয়ে দিয়েছে। তাঁরা ভেবেছিলেন এদেশে যদি লক্ষ লক্ষ, বহুতল মানুষ বাস মাটির জন্য হাহাকাঙ্ক করত থাকে, তাহলে হয়ত এদেশ বিপুলের দিকে এগিয়ে যাবে। তাই আপদ বলাই আসামের দিকে চালান করতে চেয়েছিলেন তাঁরা। আসাম গভর্নমেন্ট বাংলার চাষীকে অভিনন্দন করে ডেকে নিয়েছিলেন প্রথমে। বাংলার চাষী যখন আসামে গেল, স্ককতে তাদের যে শুণ্ড জমি দেওয়া হয়েছে তা নয়—তাদের ডেকে ডেকে অভিনন্দন জানান হয়েছে তোমরা এসো, বনজঙ্গল কেটে ফসল ফলাও ফসল ফলাও। প্রথমে তাদের কাছ থেকে খাজনা নেওয়া হয়নি। ১৯০০ সন থেকে ১৯১১ সাল পর্যন্ত এই অবস্থা ছিল। তখন একটা স্ববিধার ব্যাপার ছিল বাংলা দেশ ও আসাম এক প্রদেশের অন্তর্ভুক্ত ছিল। সেজন্য বাংলা দেশ থেকে আসাম যাওয়া ছিল, চট্টগ্রাম থেকে ময়মনসিংহ বা মেদিনীপুর যাওয়ার মত বিশেষ কোন বাধা ছিল না তাতে। সেই সময় একদল স্বার্থান্বেষী শ্রেণীর লোক জমিদার মহাজন, পুজিবাদী শ্রেণী—তারা দেখলে বাংলার অগণিত প্রজা যদি এইভাবে আসামে আসতে থাকে তাহলে তাদের শোষণের কাজে বাধার সৃষ্টি হবে। তারা বৃটিশ Bureaucracyকে কোন বকমে হাত করে চুপে চুপে order পাশ করিয়ে নিল। এই লাইন প্রথা Government orderএ বা আসাম Councilএর আইনের বলে হয়নি। এটা হয়েছে বিভিন্ন জেলায় District Officerদের executive অর্ডারের ফলে। এইভাবে উভয় অঞ্চলের মধ্যে একটা ভীষণ প্রাচীর দাঁড়িয়ে গেল। এখন অবস্থা যা দাঁড়িয়েছে, এটা আমার শোনা কথা নয়—আমি নিজ চক্ষে দেখেছি তা সত্যি গুরুতর, আমার সম্মুখের বন্ধু বাবা অর্থও ভাবভেদে সমর্থক আমরা পাকিস্তান দাবী কবি বনে আমাদের বিকল্পে যারা অভিযোগ করেন তাদের অনুবোধ জানাচ্ছি তারা একবার আসামে গিয়ে দেখে আসুন, আসামকে কি ভাবে খণ্ড খণ্ড করা হয়েছে।

আসামের লাইন প্রথা কাকে বলে? এক একটা জায়গায় সীমারেখা টেনে দেওয়া হয়েছে—এই জায়গায় আসামী ছাড়া অন্য কেউ থাকতে পারবে না। বাংলার লোককে সেখানে আলাদা করা হয়েছে। Mr. Speaker, আপনার দেশের লোক সম্বন্ধে শুধু এই ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে, তা নয়, সিলেটের লোক কাছাড়ের লোক ও স্বর্ন। ডালির লোকদের ঐ একই অবস্থা হয়েছে। বাংলা দেশের লোকের মধ্যে যাব কথায় বলি আমাদের Opposition Leader মিঃ কিরণ শঙ্কর রায়, মিঃ জে, সি, গুপ্ত, আমাদের বন্ধবর দত্ত মজুমদার, কালকে যিনি বক্তৃতা করেছেন comrade বন্ধু আমাদের ডাক্তার বাবু যাঁও কথায় বলিল। কেন তাঁরা যদি আসামে যান, সেখানে তাঁরা এতটুকু জায়গা পাবেন না। আসাম ডালিতে...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order. The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer. We reassemble at 7-45.

(After adjournment.)

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি বলতে চাচ্ছিলাম--এই লাইন প্রথা শুধু বাংলাদেশের লোককে আসামে যেতে দিচ্ছে না, তা নয়, সিলেট, কাছাড়ের লোক যারা আসামবাগী বলে পবিচিত, তাদেরও জায়গা জমি পেতে বাধা দিচ্ছে। আমি বলতে চাচ্ছি যাদের সম্বন্ধে আমাদের মনে বহুদিন থেকে ব্যথা বেদনা পুঞ্জীভূত হয়ে আছে, আমি ইউরোপীয়ান বন্ধুদের কথা বলছি--আজকে তারা যদি কেউ আসামে গিয়ে আসাম-বাসীদের মধ্যে বাতী ঘব করতে চান, তাহ'লে এই লাইন প্রথা তাতে বাধা দেয় না। কিন্তু আমাদের এই houseএব নেতা মিঃ সুরাওয়ার্দিই হোন, আর বিকল্প দলের কিংব শঙ্কর বায়ই হোন--তাদের অধিকার নাই আসাম যাওয়ার। কিন্তু Stark সাহেবের অধিকার আছে আসামে বাতীঘর করার। শুধু তা নয়--তখন যদি জায়গা চান, তাঁর সম্বন্ধেও আপত্তি হবে না, জানান যদি জায়গা চান--তাঁর সম্বন্ধেও আপত্তি হবে না, জয়পুরিয়াও যদি জায়গা চান তাঁর বোলায়ও কোন আপত্তি উঠবে না। এমন কি বন্ধুর বতনলার যদি জায়গা চান তাঁর সম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তিও হবে না। গুবরা সম্বন্ধে, মারোয়াড়ী সম্বন্ধে বা ইউরোপীয়ানদের সম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তি নাই। বিহাব থেকে চা-বাগানের কলীবাও যদি আসামে যায়--তা' হলে তাদের সম্বন্ধেও কোন আপত্তি হবে না। আপত্তি শুধু Mr. Speaker, আপনার জেলার লোক সম্বন্ধে এবং আনাব জেলার ও শ্রীমুত কিংব শঙ্কর বায়ের জেলার লোক সম্বন্ধে, মিঃ জে, সি, গুপ্তের জেলার লোক সম্বন্ধে, দত্ত মজুমদারের জেলার লোক সম্বন্ধে এবং Hon'ble Minister আহম্মদ হোসেনের দেশের লোকের সম্বন্ধে। যাহ'ক এই যে প্রথা কেমন করে এ আমবা সহ্য করতে পারি? কালকে এক বন্ধু ববীন্দ্রনাথের কবিতা আওড়িয়ে ছিলেন এবং Houseএ আর এক বন্ধুর সোদিন বলেছিলেন আমবা মুসলমানবা অনেকে নাকি বলি আমবা বাঙ্গালী নই। তাদের সবাইকে একটা খবর দিচ্ছি--দু'একজন সাহিত্যিক ও ঔপন্যাসিক আছেন হাউসে এসেমব্লির মধ্যে কবিতা বচনা করেন এমন লোকও নাকি আছেন এখানে, তাদের একটা খবর দেই। বাংলা দেশের ছেলেরা যারা আসামে গিয়ে বাতীঘর করতে তাদের সেখানে বাংলা পড়তে দেওয়া হয় না। যে সমস্ত প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষাবাহন বাংলা, তাদের grant বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়। আমাদের বাংলার কৃষ্টি সম্বন্ধে, সংস্কৃতি সম্বন্ধে যে নীতি আসাম সরকার অনুসরণ করছেন সে সম্পর্কে আপনাদের দৃষ্টি অনুসরণ করতে চাচ্ছি, সেই কৃষ্টি ও সংস্কৃতি ধ্বংস করার যে বিরাট আয়োজন আসামে হচ্ছে তার ঝোঁক যদি আমবা না বাধি--তাহ'লে সেটা দুঃখের বিষয় বলতে হবে। আমি নিজের অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে বলছি--আমি আসামে গিয়ে দেখে এসেছি আসামের প্রত্যেক স্কুলে দু'খানা ক'বে বই রাখা হয়। সেখানে বাঙালীর ছেলেরাও আনাবসকে মাটিকোঠাল বলে, আঙুনকে বলে জুঁই। আসামী ভাষা মুখস্ত না করতে পারলে বাঙালীর ছেলের সবকাবি সাহায্য দেওয়া হয় না। তাই বাধ্য হয়ে সে দু-খানা বই পড়ে--একখানা পড়ে বোজ--আর একখানা বই থাকে Inspector কে দেখাবার জন্য। Inspector না থাকলে বাংলা বই পড়ে। বাংলা ভাষার প্রতি ও সাহিত্যের উপর এই অবিচার কি আপনাবা সহ্য করতে পারেন? এই প্রশ্ন সোজাসজি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি আপনাদের। আজকের এই যে অবস্থা এ সম্বন্ধে আর বেশী বলবার সময় নাই। শীঘ্রই লাল বাতি জ্বলে উঠবে। আমি মনে করি বাংলা ভাষা ও সাহিত্যের প্রতি যদি আপনাদের প্রীতি থাকে, যদি ববীন্দ্রনাথের প্রতি প্রীতি থাকে--যা ববীন্দ্রনাথের তাজমহল কবিতা আবৃত্তি করতে করতে উচ্ছ্বসিত হয়ে ওঠেন, বিশ্বকবি উপর যদি তাদের প্রীতি থাকে তাহ'লে তাদের আসাম গভর্নমেন্টের এই অত্যাচার অনাচারের বিরুদ্ধে সজাগ হওয়া উচিত।

উচ্ছেদ বা evictionএর বর্ববতা সম্বন্ধে আর বেশী কথা বলতে চাই না। বাংলা দেশের হাজারহাজার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক এখন সেখান আসামে বুবে বেড়াচ্ছে। আসামে লক্ষ লক্ষ একর জমি পতিত পড়ে ছিল, বাঙালীরা সেখানকার বাঘ ভালুককে ভাঙিয়ে জমিকে কবেরেছে শস্যশ্যামলা--নানা প্রকার বাধা বিঘ্নের সন্ধে কবেরেছে সংগ্রাম। বাঙালীবই চেষ্টায় আসামের মাটিতে সোণা ফলেছে--বেড়েছে আসামের ঐশ্বর্য অথচ আসামে বাঙালীর ঘাড়ের উপর খাড়া খুলছে যে কোন মুহূর্তে হুকুম হতে পারে--বেবিষে যাও। এই হুকুম তামিল অহিংসভাবে হয় না মোটেই, দস্তব মত হিংসা....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you be lengthy? Other members are anxious to speak.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Please give me ten minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have already spoken for about ten minutes. I cannot give you ten minutes more.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHAUDHURY: Then eight minutes? (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Please try to be brief.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOUDHURY: বাংলা দেশ থেকে বহু লোক আসামে গিয়েছে—লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক গিয়েছে—তাদের একদিকে ব্রহ্মপুত্র ধুংস করছে তাদের বাড়ীঘর ভাসিয়ে নিয়ে। যখন তারা সর্বস্ব হারিয়ে বনজঙ্গলে গেল চরাপ ভূমিতে গিয়ে আশ্রয় নেয় ব্রিটিশ বেয়নেটের সাহায্যে আসাম সরকারের লোক আসে তাদের উচ্ছেদ করতে আসাম দেশের বড় বড় হাতীতে করে এসে হাজির হয় সরকারি ফৌজ। আমাদের যাঁরা কংগ্রেসী বন্ধু তাদের বলছি যাঁরা ব্রিটিশের সঙ্গে সংগ্রাম করছেন আজীবন, যখন ব্রিটিশ সৈন্যবাসিনী বাংলার গরীব সর্বহারাদের উপর সশস্ত্র চালাতে আসে—তখন কি আপনাদের প্রাণে একটুও ব্যথা রাজে না? কেউ কেউ বলছেন—evacuee যাঁরা, সর্বহারা যাঁরা তাঁরা সকলেই মুসলমান। আপনাবা জানেন বাংলা দেশের বহু হিন্দু ও মেথানে রয়েছে। আমাব সময় থাকলে fact, figure দিয়ে দেখিয়ে দিতাম। আমাব কাছে সরকারি তদন্ত কমিটির রিপোর্ট রয়েছে। একটি মেয়ে কেঁদে কেঁদে বলছে তাঁর নাম ললিতা, কানাই নামে ওস্তাদের স্ত্রী। আসাম গভর্নমেন্টের একটি Enquiry Committee-র সামনে বলেছে কিভাবে তাকে অপমান করেছে সরকারি লোক—কিভাবে তাঁর মুখের প্রাণ কেড়ে নিয়েছে—যেবর চালে আগুন কেলে দিবে তাদের সর্বহারা করতে, তাঁরা তাদের ছেলেপুলেদের নিয়ে পাছেব তলায় আশ্রয় নিয়েছে। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি—বাংলা দেশের একটি মেয়েব উপর এই যে জুলুম—ব্রিটিশ বেয়নেটের আশ্রয়ে আসাম সরকারের এই যে অত্যাচার, বাংলার কংগ্রেসী ভাইদের প্রাণে কি এতে ব্যথা রাজে না? আসামের বাঙালীরা জমি চায়, মাটি চায়, কিন্তু তাঁরা পেয়েছে শুধু scheme আর scheme—development scheme, observation scheme, colonisation scheme, আরও কত কি? আজ দেশে খাদ্যের অভাব, খাদ্যের অভাবে লোক হা অনু! হা অনু! করছে। এখনো আসামে চলছে উচ্ছেদের পাল। সোনার ফসল নষ্ট করা হচ্ছে—নষ্ট করা হচ্ছে ধানের গোলা। একটা কথা বলা হয়েছে পানিককণ পূর্ণ—একজন বলেছেন আপনাবা Viceroyকে address দিচ্ছেন কেন? আপনাদের বলছি তাতে যদি আপত্তি থাকে—আপনাদের কাছেই address পাঠাব। আজ যদি শ্রীযুত ক্রিশ্ব শঙ্কর দাস এই ব্রিটিশ বেয়নেটের বিরুদ্ধে আসামের গভর্নমেন্টের অত্যাচারের বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রাম শুরু করেন বাঙালীর স্বাধীনতা, বাঙালীর কৃষ্টি, সংস্কৃতি, অধিকার বক্ষার জন্য, তাহলে তাঁর হাতে হাত মিলাতে রাজী আছি আমরা। আমরা চাই আসামে যে অত্যাচার চলেছে—বান্ধটল গভর্নমেন্ট যে চরম অত্যাচার অন্যায় করছেন বাংলার সংস্কৃতির উপর—বাংলার মা-বোনের উপর তাঁর প্রতিষ্ঠার আমরা সকলে মিলে করব। আসুন হাতে হাত মিলিয়ে অগ্রসর হই। আমি সমর্থন করছি—আজকের এই প্রস্তাব। আপনাবা যদি রাজী হন—address Viceroyকে না দিয়ে আপনাদের বরাবরই পাঠাব বাঙালী আজ প্রসারিত হতে চাচ্ছে বেআইনি লাইনপ্রুথা এতে প্রতিবন্ধক হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। আসুন বাংলার হিন্দু মুসলমান, হাত ধরাধরি করে অগ্রসর হই সম্মবদ্ধ বাঙালীর যৌবনজনতবঙ্গের সম্মুখে ভেগে যাবে শতবিধ বেআইনি আইন।

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset let me make it quite clear that as far as the first part of this motion is concerned I am in agreement and that for the sentiments just expressed by Mr. Habibullah Chaudhury, namely, that there is somebody in Assam suffering, i.e., Bengalee immigrants, and we in Bengal are vitally interested because 100 per cent. of these people who are suffering in Assam are Bengalees. I should like to make quite clear my own view and the solution which my party suggests to solve this problem for ever. The very first question that arises in my mind is, why is it that we find that Bengalis have to leave their hearths and homes? Who are those peasants? The landless peasantry of Bengal who have to leave their hearths and homes to seek shelter and find food somewhere in India. It is a crying shame that we cannot keep them in Bengal and treat them as our own kith and kin. I should like to point out to members present here on both sides of the House that we cannot keep those Bengali peasants well-fed: we cannot give them any food because there exists in Bengal a zamindari system which Lord Cornwallis created and which is continuing today. We have continued the ignominious Permanent Settlement and it is also a shame that Ministries have come and gone—our own Ministries—which could not do away with the Permanent Settlement and save the peasants of Bengal. That is why we find thousands and thousands of Muslim peasants, one of the poorest in our land, migrating to Assam for a morsel of food. It is indeed a shame.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a motion has been brought requesting the Governor-General to set things right but I should say, put your hand on your heart

and think. Mr. Speaker, they should think hard instead of all on a sudden appealing to the Viceroy and Governors of different provinces to do certain things. They should think why is it so, and under whose orders and whose régime do we find this injustice done to the peasants of our land, be they Hindus or Muslims? This is the same Viceroy and the same Governor to whom these gentlemen are appealing for mercy, appealing so that the Congress Government in Assam may not evict these poor peasants from the land. It is a shame to appeal to those very people who have kept you in subjection and poverty. Therefore I should say, and I am addressing myself specially to the Muslim League, that today they have the power and when they have the power they should keep these Bengali peasants in Bengal. Get rid of the zamindars and of the Permanent Settlement. Build up your own industry and join with the Hindus to fight against the Britishers. Today I have heard of the Hitlerian theory enunciated in this House that we have no living space. I heard that before in Europe as a result of which the mighty war took place there. Again has been raised this long forgotten economic theory that we have no land and therefore we must migrate elsewhere and occupy other people's land. I say there is no need for that. If we had our own industry, our own land, if we could remove the zamindars who have no business to stay on the land, if we could give the landless peasants a portion of such land, there would have been no need for them to leave this province. We should admit that we have failed to carry out our own duty in our own land. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say that it is a question of land, it is a question of land hunger as far as the peasants are concerned. But I refer to the Muslim League when I say that that question has been mixed up with the question of Pakistan. We find that this political question has come up to the forefront. We find on the other hand that the Congress in Assam are afraid of the very word Pakistan. Therefore they think that these people being predominantly Muslim, if they once inhabit those places, probably within a very short time their land would be claimed—as even now it is unjustly claimed by the Muslim League—that Assam should come within Pakistan. Therefore I say that whereas on the one hand we find the *Azad* and the *Morning News* spreading venom against the Congress Ministry, against the Hindus of Assam, on the other hand we find a paper in Assam, the *Assamia*, spreading the same kind of venom, and this paper is day after day poisoning the minds of the Assamese with the narrow question of provincialism. As far as my point of view is concerned I condemn both sides for this sort of mischievous activities. (Interruptions from both sides of the House.)

Sir, I find both sides of the House have been agitated by my speech. I would ask them to have patience. I suggest that we here repudiate this motion which has been brought by Mr. Tafazzal Ali and form a united committee in Bengal, in this House, to proceed to Assam to see things for ourselves and tackle the Assam Government and the people there instead of appealing to the Viceroy. (Interruptions from the Muslim League benches.) You may go on appealing if you like. Let them appeal as much as they can but Viceroys of India would not shed a drop of tears, that I can assure them. Therefore, I say, let us all go to Assam and tackle our own problem. I appeal for an immediate planned settlement. There must be a planned settlement in Assam. We must see how much land we can get for the immigrants in Assam. Neither the Congress Government in Assam nor the Muslim League has put forth such a suggestion. That is the only way out, I believe, if we really wish to help solve in a lasting way the problem of the immigrants. I say even now that not a single immigrant should be ejected because those people, although they have been made pawns in the game of politics, do not know anything either about Pakistan or Hindusthan. These people have been made to suffer the landless peasantry who have gone from all parts of Bengal for food to Assam. I say that there should not be any infliction of suffering either on them from the bureaucrats or from the Ministry in Assam and that the eviction should stop forthwith. Even now at this late hour let us all agree not to appeal

to the Viceroy and the Governor but to unite and form a committee from here and see whether we can solve the problem. I shudder to think that there are people yet in 1946 who have so much faith in the British that they are still appealing to them. Have they not found out that even Mr. Jinnah has not got his Pakistan from the Viceroy nor has the Congress got independence—(Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: All this is humbug!) Sir, I would ask Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar to have a little more patience to hear me.

Sir, I say again, give up this motion and unite with the Hindus to solve the problem of the poor immigrants instead of appealing to the Viceroy. Remember the Wahabis who fought for their rights against the British. Remember that Rashid Ali for whom you struggled has not been released by the Viceroy. In spite of Mr. Jinnah's declaration Rashid Ali is not being released by the Viceroy. Remember the Viceroy will not help you in this matter. By appeal that cannot be done. Therefore I say, let us all unite and go to Assam and find out if we can do anything there for our poor immigrants.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand members are not willing to sit any longer today. So I adjourn the House till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 8-11 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 27th July, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled
under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 27th July, 1946, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur NURUL AMIN) in the Chair,
4 Hon'ble Ministers and 200 members.

Change of programme of business.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, before you begin the business of the House I would like to draw your attention and also the attention of the House to the fact that there would be a general strike on Monday. I suppose the tram, the bus and the taxis won't ply and it may be unsafe for private cars to come out in the streets. In that circumstance, Sir, I do not see how members will be able to attend on Monday. I am bringing this fact for your consideration, Sir, and also for the consideration of Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali, who is leading the Government now. Would it be possible not to have a sitting on Monday and to have an extra day—another day—for general discussion? I am merely making a suggestion. It is for you to decide and for Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali to accede to our request.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, in view of the difficulties which the Leader of the Opposition expects I can say this much that we would have no objection if another day can be found to accommodate the programme fixed for that day. But I may also point out that the other House is meeting on Monday and this difficulty was also placed before the President of that House, but he said "We cannot in anticipation of an event which is likely to happen fix our programme". I think, Sir, that if the difficulties which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition expects do materialise then there will be difficulties to members of both sides in coming to the House and in view of that circumstance we would have no objection if another day is allowed.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Thank you very much.

(VOICES FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES: We all agree.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Monday has been fixed for general discussion of the Budget. This is one of the four days that have been fixed for general discussion and general discussion of the Budget is a privilege of the Opposition. If the Opposition Leader and the Leader of the House come to an arrangement, that is a different matter; but so far as the Chair is concerned, I do not think that the Chair should be a party to the curtailment of the privilege of the Opposition by curtailing a day out of the general discussion days.

Perhaps it will be better not to adjourn Monday's sitting but to have a sitting on the day and if there is no quorum, automatically it will have to be adjourned. It is perhaps not expedient to postpone the sitting of the House on a problematic apprehension. Let us see what happens on Monday and if members are not in a position to attend there will certainly be want of quorum and automatically the House will be adjourned.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I could not make my intention clear. I did not suggest the curtailment of the days. I suggested that if my friend Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali agrees with me, there will be another day for general discussion. So the right of the Opposition to have four days will be there. As to your suggestion, Sir, to

wait till Monday, I do not think it would be wise. After all if there be a sitting, every member will try to come. How they will come I do not know. Since there is an agreement on both sides of the House I am not speaking of the inconvenience of our side only—I hope you will reconsider your decision and announce it today.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: May I make a suggestion here? Both the parties agree to the postponement of the meeting on Monday and take another day for general discussion of the Budget. I suggest that Friday being a non-official business day may be fixed for general discussion, or general discussion may be curtailed from four days to three days.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Friday is a non-official day. It cannot be curtailed.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have got one suggestion to make. I see some practical difficulty in the matter. We have got 29th, 30th, 31st July and 1st August fixed for general discussion of the Budget. If we do not have a sitting on the 29th, we cannot take up that business on any other day, because the Budget has to be discussed on successive days. The only alternative is, as Khan Bahadur Fazlul Quadir has said, that we have got to encroach upon the day allotted for non-official business on the 2nd of August. If the Leader of the Opposition agrees to it, there will be no difficulty; but if he does not agree, then I do not see any other way out of the situation. On the 2nd August and 3rd August there are other businesses fixed and we must have a general discussion of the Budget on successive days. That has been the usual practice and convention and we cannot leave the Budget discussion to be taken up sometime later. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will look up the programme and then if he has any suggestion to offer, we will consider that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: Suppose this contingency happens that the members cannot come on Monday, the House will be automatically adjourned. How shall we then settle our programme? We must have four days for general discussion. That means we shall have to extend the meeting days which are fixed up to 9th September by one day, i.e., upto 10th September.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In that case one day is automatically lost. If the Opposition do not turn up, they forfeit one day. The Budget discussion will have to be compressed in three days.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: May I make one suggestion through you, Mr. Speaker, to Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali? We have got 3rd August, 5th August, 6th August, 7th August, 8th August, 10th and 12th August for the business allotted for 3rd of August, viz., The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill and the Calcutta Improvement (Howrah Amendment) Bill, 1946, (Introduction, consideration and passing). I do not think so many days will be necessary for the performance of the business for the 3rd of August. So one day can be taken from that business and we will have a longer sitting, if necessary, for performing the business of the 3rd of August. So I suggest that general discussion should take place on the 30th July, 31st July, 1st August and 3rd August.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: May I suggest a morning sitting on any of those days? If there be no objection, we can have two sittings—in the morning as well as in the evening.

Khan Sahab HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Third of August has been fixed for the Calcutta Improvement (Howrah Amendment) Bill, and so much time will not be necessary for that Bill, as my friend opposite has suggested. It is up to the Opposition to say whether they would prolong the discussion on that matter or not. If they are satisfied that they won't take so much

time and they help the House to finish the business in a shorter period, then I see no difficulty in finding out another day on either 2nd or 3rd August. It is for them to consider whether they will prolong the discussion or not.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: May I suggest that we may take the advantage of having a morning and also an evening sitting on the same day, so that time for general discussion of the Budget may not be curtailed and other business also may stand.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, I suggest one thing for your consideration. On the 2nd of August, which is a non-official day, we have got three Bills to be considered. With regard to two we have not yet received the Governor's consent; I cannot say for certain whether these will come up at all. There is another Bill which will, I think, take a very small time and if the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition agree to shift Monday's discussion to the 2nd of August after the non-official Bill is finished, that can be done.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I agree with the suggestion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We have no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: May we take it that there will be no sitting on Monday?

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Sir, am I to understand that there will be no sitting on Monday?

Mr. SPEAKER: As there is agreement on both sides, I think I should not stand in the way. The meeting fixed for the 29th July will not be held and the general discussion of the Budget will be taken up on the 2nd of August after the non-official Bill is finished.

Mr. Datta, you were in possession of the House. May I point out in this connection that it is neither permissible under the rules nor is it the convention of this House to oppose a Government Bill during its introduction stage. You may reserve your speech for the second stage.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Very well, Sir. Why was there no question today?

Mr. SPEAKER: Answers have not been received from the Departments concerned.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

Bengal Finance (Extending) Bill, 1946.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Finance (Extending) Bill, 1946, be taken into consideration.

In this connection I would like to state that the need for the present legislative measure arises out of the fact that during the section 93 administration His Excellency the Governor made a legislative enactment by which he raised the rate of totalisator and betting taxes from 10 to 15 per cent. Now this Bill was due to expire on the 10th of July this year and as the Assembly was not in session, in order to keep alive the provisions of that Governor's Bill it was necessary to promulgate an Ordinance. The members of this House will realise that when I presented the Budget I made it clear that we are going to face a heavy deficit. Therefore it is neither possible nor feasible to reduce the present tax level and in order to keep up the present tax level, it is now proposed to convert the Ordinance into a legislative enactment. This will not in any way enhance the existing rate, this will keep the existing level of taxation at its present rate.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the consideration of the House.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know this Bill is not meant to enhance the present rate of tax. When this Bill was introduced and passed in the year 1945, it was done with the object of bridging the gulf between the revenue and expenditure. We expected certain economy in the matter, but after reading the Budget speech of my friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister it seems to me that there is no attempt at economy and there is a criminal waste of public money and as there is a criminal waste of public money we cannot agree to any taxation which has got the effect of imposing a fresh burden on the people. So I have got the painful necessity of formally opposing it, and I hope the Government in future will not be guilty of such waste of money. I know that my hope is in vain but still I hope like that.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Then it is half-hearted opposition!

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, it is not. Sir, if you read the Budget you will find that there are many things to be said which I do not like to say now but will be said during the discussion of the Budget which will begin on Tuesday next.

Khan Bahadur MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Wait till then.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yes, I reserve my criticism till then. It is an absolutely rotten Budget without any plan whatsoever and it will be duly criticised. But I oppose this motion on the ground that I do not entrust any money with such a rotten Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in this connection whether Government will be agreeable to earmark the amount realised through this taxation for actual development purposes such as development of roads, etc.?

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Sir, I would not only support this Bill but would rather increase the percentage. It would make me happier if this 15 per cent. were enhanced to 25 per cent. because taxes of this nature on gambling and races do not affect the poor people. I would rather have this tax increased to 25 per cent., or even up to 50 per cent., if possible. What I want is that the poorer people of Bengal should be relieved of the heavy burden of taxation under which they are groaning. You know, Sir, that the Sales Tax Bill was on the floor of this House for discussion some time ago. We shall discuss that question again during the general discussion of the Budget. You know, Sir, a huge sum of money is being wasted on the top-heavy administration of the Civil Supplies and Communications and Works Departments which are existing absolutely for the benefit of a caucus of contractors and some of the high officials of the departments, and, Sir, it is also matter of common knowledge that the steel frame of I.C.S. administration is squeezing out the life of Bengal. So, in order that we can give relief to the poor people, I would like to have heavier taxes imposed on amusement, gambling and racing which are luxuries of the richer people. That would make me happier.

With these few words, Sir, I support this Bill.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি এই ধরনের taxation আদৌ পছন্দ করি না—তা এই কারণে যে gambling, racing, betting প্রভৃতি এই ধরনের যে সমস্ত ব্যাপার আছে—তাদের দ্বারা দেশের অমঙ্গল ছাড়া কোনরূপ মঙ্গল সংগঠিত হবে না। আসবাব জানি কলিকাতার কত লোকের কত সর্বনাশ এসব দ্বারা হয়। সুতরাং এসবের উপর tax চাপিয়ে কিছু টাকা আয় করে তা দ্বারা দেশের মঙ্গল করবো এ ধরনের আশা আমাদের বর্তমান Assemblyর না থাকাই উচিত। আমাদের সকলের মনে বাধা উচিত আমরা জনগণের প্রতিনিধি এবং জনগণের অমঙ্গলজনক কোন ব্যাপারে tax চাপিয়ে তাদের বাঁচিয়ে

বসার অজুহাত খোঁজা কোন রকমেই উচিত নয়। যাতে এই ধৰণের ব্যাপার না থাকতে পারে তাব ব্যবস্থা কবাই ববং বাঞ্ছনীয়। Gambling, racing প্রভৃতি দেশে যাতে না থাকে—এদের হাত থেকে অব্যাহতি পেয়ে দেশে যাতে বিস্তৃত হয়ে উঠতে পারে—দেশের লোক যাতে মদ না খায়—কোন নেশা না করে সেদিকে সকলের দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিত। Tax যত বেশী চাপানো যাক না কেন দেখা গেছে tax দ্বারা এসব prohibited অর্থাৎ বন্ধ হয় না। এ উপায়ে আমবা ববং জনগণকে ক্রমশঃ এই সব দিকে আবও বেশী করে টেনে আনি। আমাদের কংগ্রেসের মহান নেতা মহাত্মা গান্ধী পুনঃ পুনঃ বলেছেন—মদ থেকে যে tax আদায় করা হয় তাব দ্বারা জনগণের বা দেশের কোন উপকার হয় না। বোধে সহজে দেখা গেছে কংগ্রেসের মহিমগুনী জোব করে মদ খাওয়া বন্ধ করে দিয়েছিলেন; সেখানে খুব উপকার হয়েছিল। তাবপব যখন বোধে সহজে শ্রমিকবা হবতাল করে, নিখিল ভাবত ট্রেড ইউনিয়ন কংগ্রেসের সভাপতিকূপে আমি তখন সেখানে গিয়েছিলাম। শ্রমিকবা আমবা বলেছিল, “এবাব আমবা ভালভাবে হবতাল চালাতে পাববো। কাবণ কংগ্রেস মহিমগুনী মদ খাওয়া বন্ধ করে দেওয়া আমবা আল মদ খাই না। তাতে আমবা যথেষ্ট টাকা জমিয়েছি এবং সেই টাকা দ্বারা সত্যিকাব আমাদের উপকার হয়েছে এবং আমবা দীর্ঘদিন পর্যন্ত হবতাল চালাতে পাবব।” সেই হবতাল ফলও হয়েছিল। আমবা যদি জনগণের সত্যিকাব মঙ্গল কবতে চাই তাহ’লে যেন এই ধৰণের taxationএব দিকে না তাকাই, এসব দ্বারা যেন লুপ্ত না হই। আমাদের ববং চেষ্টা কবা উচিত যাতে আমবা এই সবস্ত দোষ চিবতবে বন্ধ করে দিয়ে দেশের নৈতিক আবহাওয়া শুদ্ধ ও নিম্মল করে তলতে পাৰি।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, we certainly appreciate the observations just now made by Mr. Sabur. But I would like to remind my friend that his good and pious wishes will ever remain good and pious and will never be fulfilled.

Sir, there cannot be two opinions about the subject-matter being chosen for taxation. Nobody will object to taxing gambling and betting, but what we feel is that huge waste is made of public money. Therefore we insist on the observation of strict economy in expenditure. Sir, I will cite only one instance and it is this: You have seen huge godowns erected in surplus districts. The erection of these godowns was commenced long ago but the erection has not yet been completed. The result is—these godowns are lying empty and vacant in every place. I can speak about Dinajpur. Now, Sir, there is no work done in regard to the use of these godowns but a huge staff incurring a huge expenditure has been sent to Dinajpur—they are sitting idle. They do not touch the pen and ink. Now, though there is no work regarding the use of these godowns, the staff is there and they are drawing a huge salary. If you think that only by taxing gambling and other betting matters you would be able to give relief to the people you are very much mistaken. You cannot do that unless you can insist on the Government for observing strict economy. But, Sir, I have not seen anything like that to be done by the Government members. So we should not encourage any more taxation only to encourage wastage. We therefore oppose this taxation Bill.

Mr. KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয, আমাদের বন্ধু সাবুর যে প্রস্তাবটি সমর্থন কবলেন তাতে আমি তাঁকে দুটি বিষয় জানাতে চাই। তিনি বললেন যাতে লোকে gambling, racing প্রভৃতি না করে তাব জন্য tax বসান দবকাব। আমি বলি তা নয়। যখন লোকের জুয়া খেলাব নেশা হয়েছে তখন তাবা tax বন্ধ হ’লেও জুয়া খেলা ছাড়বে না। একটা কাবখানাব সামনে যদি মদের দোকান খুলে দেওয়া হয় এবং সেখানে মদের উপব যদি একশ টাকাও tax বসান হয় তাহ’লে যাতালেরা কি মদ খাওয়া ছাড়ে? আমি বলতে চাই এই taxationএব দ্বারা প্রকাবা-স্তবে তাদের দুর্নীতিব প্রশ্ন দেওয়া হচ্ছে। তাদের কাছ থেকে অধিক পরিমাণে টাকা আদায় করে শুধু ছিনি-মিনিই খেলা হবে। আমি বলি এই Bill কোন বকমভাবেই সমর্থন কবা যায় না। আমি প্রস্তাব কবি এই বকমের Bill গভর্ণমেন্টেব উচিত বন্ধ করে দেওয়া। এই বকম কোন taxation কোন সভা গভর্ণমেন্টেব রাখা উচিত নয়। জুয়া খেলা ইত্যাদি সম্পূর্ণভাবে বেআইনী কবে দেওয়া উচিত। তাহ’লে এই ধৰণের নেশাকে বন্ধ করে দেওয়া যায়; নতুবা আমি আশঙ্কা করি ২৫৫৫০১০০০১০০০ টাকা tax বসিয়েও তাদের এই নেশাকে কেউ বন্ধ কবতে পাববে না। যে Governmentএ জনগণের প্রতিনিধি আছে তাদের উচিত এই আইন উঠিয়ে দেওয়া এবং এমনভাবে আইন করা যাতে জুয়া খেলতে কেউ না পারে। এর দ্বারা লোকের অনেক সর্বনাশ হয়ে যায়। Tax বাড়িয়ে লোককে নেশা থেকে নিবস্ত করা যায় না—আইন করে নিবস্ত কবতে

হয়। নেশা এমন জিনিষ বতই দুশ্চাপ্য হয়—সেই জিনিষ পাওয়ার জন্য আগুহ ততই বেড়ে যায়। এই হচ্ছে মানুষের মনোবিজ্ঞান। তাই আমি এই আইনের বিবোধিতা কবি এবং এই আইন যাতে উঠে যায় ও tax বৃদ্ধি না হয় তাৰ প্ৰস্তাব কবি। পক্ষান্তৰে এইৰূপ gambling, racing, amusement ইত্যাদি দেশ খেকে বৈআইনী কৰে যাতে তুলে দেওয়া হয় তাৰ জন্য সকলৰ চেষ্টা কৰা উচিত।

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA : মাননীয় প্ৰমুখ মহোদয়, সাবুৰ সাহেব যে কথা বলেছেন যে আইন কবে taxation বৃদ্ধি কবে gambling, বেটিং প্ৰভৃতি জুয়াখেলা বন্ধ কৰা যাব, হয় তাহা কিছু সত্য। এই সৰেৰ উপৰ যদি taxation কবতে হয়, তাহ'লে তা এমনভাবে কৰা উচিত যাতে সকল প্ৰকাৰ জুয়া খেলা বন্ধ হয়। আমাদেৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহাশয় যে আইন এনেছেন, আমি বিশ্বাস কবি, কলিকাতায় betting, racing-এ যে পৰিমাণ আয় হয়—তাৰ চেয়ে গ্ৰামে গ্ৰামে, বাতী ঘৰে, পথে পথে, শহৰে শহৰে flush খেলে যথেষ্ট টাকা লোকে আয় কৰে; তাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে যদি তিনি আইন কবতেন তাহলে অপণিত দৰিত্ৰ জনসাধাৰণেৰ খুব উপকাৰ হ'ত। আজ এখানে বড়লোকে খোডাৰ জুয়া খেলে বহু টাকা ধুংস কৰছে। কিন্তু flush খেলে গ্ৰামে দৰিত্ৰ জনসাধাৰণ পৰ্য্যন্ত ধুংস হয়ে যাচ্ছে; তাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কিছু না কৰে এই যে আইন কৰা এতে লাভ খুব বেশী হলেও শুধু এটা কথা খুব অন্যায্য বলে মনে হয়। কিন্তু যাবা flush খেলে তাহেৰও বাদ দেওয়া উচিত নয়। তিনি যাতে সেই আইন আনেন তাহা তাঁৰ বিবেচনা কৰা উচিত। সমস্ত জুয়া খেলাই আইন কৰে বন্ধ কৰা উচিত।

আপানাবা সকলে জানেন পাড়ায় পাড়ায়, গ্ৰামে গ্ৰামে ছোট ছোট শিশুবা পৰ্য্যন্ত এই জুয়া খেলায় কিভাবে ধুংসেৰ পথে চলে যাচ্ছে। তাহেৰও বাদ দিয়ে এই আইন কৰা হচ্ছে। সেখানে সবকাৰী দপ্তরে অতিবিক্ত অন্যায্য ব্যয় হচ্ছে সেখানে সেই ব্যয় কমিয়ে না এনে, কোটি কোটি টাকা অপচয় কৰা হচ্ছে। নিশীথ বাব বা বলেছেন যে গুদাম তৈৰী হযেছে দিনাজপুৰে, কিন্তু সেখানে কাজ কৰবাৰ লোক নাই। সেখানে গুদাম কৰে Government-এৰ লোক দেখানোৰ কি দবকাৰ ছিল? সাধাৰণ কৃষক যাবা লেখা পড়া জানে না তাৰাও জানে যে মাটিৰ উপৰ মাচা না কৰে ধান চা'ল বাখলে সমস্ত ধান চা'লই নষ্ট হয়ে যায়। Government-এৰ লাহোৰ শেড নামে (Lahore shed) প্ৰকাণ্ড shed তৈৰী হযেছে। সেগুলি জমিৰ উপৰ সমান কৰে তৈৰী কৰা হযেছে। আমবা জানি সেখানে শেড তৈৰী কৰা হযেছে তাৰ চানিপাশে জল উঠেছে। সেখানে বস্তায় কৰে ধান চা'ল বেৰে ধুংস কৰা হচ্ছে। এটা কি ভুল কৰে, না ইচ্ছা কৰে? আমবা জানি সেখানে কত M. Sc., B. Sc., পাশকৰা বৈজ্ঞানিক মোটা টাকা দিয়ে বাখা হযেছে। আব তাৰাও Government-এৰ টাকা নিয়ে তাহেৰ বিদ্যাবুদ্ধিৰ এই অপপ্ৰয়োগ কৰছে। এই সমস্ত বিবেচনা কৰে এদিকে অতিবিক্ত বায়গুলিকে কমিয়ে আয়েৰ সামঞ্জস্য কৰবাৰ জন্য চেষ্টা কৰবেন। অনর্থক এইভাবে tax বাড়াবাৰ চেষ্টা কৰবেন না।

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of information, Sir. Have you got any knowledge since when the race courses of Assam and Bombay have been auctioned, and if they have been auctioned at all?

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sabur seems to think that by increasing the rate of taxation the gambling propensity of the people will be substantially checked. In that belief he is very much mistaken. People who go to race courses and go for the purpose of gambling get intoxicated. Days before the races take place they get intoxicated without consuming liquor মদ না খেয়ে মাতাল। The higher rate of taxation will never stop the gambling propensities of the people—but will bring further ruin to several homes in Bengal. In this view I oppose this Bill.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I rise to reply to the various criticisms that have been levelled against this motion. Mr. Datta has opposed this Bill merely for the sake of opposition. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: No, no.) He has not discussed the merits of the case. He says that this Government is launching into schemes and expenditure without any plan. I have outlined the budgetary proposals of this Government only the other day and I am sure if Mr. Datta will examine the proposals he will find that our post-war reconstruction schemes are very comprehensive and they embrace all departments of nation-building activities, and besides that we have assumed office only about three months back. He should be patient and he should give this Ministry a chance to work.

Now, Sir, Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar raised a point that the income from this source should be earmarked for development purposes. I have explained to this House that there is no dearth of money available for development purposes and there will be no difficulty in launching into comprehensive and large-scale schemes. Our difficulty at the present moment is to meet our current expenses and therefore it is not possible for Government to earmark this money for development purposes for which there is no dearth of money, as I have already explained.

Now, Mr. Sabur has laid down a dictum. He has said that we should tax the rich in order to afford and give relief to the poor. That is a very sound policy. Every Government worth its salt must see that the burden of taxation falls on the shoulders of the richer section of the community and not on the poor. The rich should be taxed for the benefit of the poor. That is the lookout of every responsible Government. I heartily associate myself with Mr. Sabur in that respect but Mr. Sabur says that the rate of the tax should be enhanced. I am afraid I cannot agree with him in this point of view because there is a danger in enhancing the tax beyond a certain limit. There is a danger that if we make this taxation very high, gambling may go underground. There is no denying or gainsaying the fact that gambling instinct is inherent in human being. You cannot check or curtail or curb it. If, therefore, you raise the tax to a very high level people will take recourse to gambling outside the race course of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club and gamble in bucket shops and other illegal book-makers will come into existence and they will thrive. I will give Mr. Sabur a little bit of illustration. Everybody who goes to the Royal Calcutta Turf Club wants to have a fair and square return for his money. If our taxation level, as it exists, is Rs. 15 and if the odds are 4 to 1, if one stakes Rs. 100 he stands to gain Rs. 400. If he backs a successful winner he can get Rs. 400 for risking Rs. 100. But as our tax is in operation at the rate of 15 *per cent.* he gets $15 \times 4 = 60$ rupees less. He stands to get only Rs. 360 in his 4 to 1 chance. Now if we raise it to 50 *per cent.* or as suggested to 25 *per cent.* then the person who goes on a 4 to 1 chance actually gets 3 to 1, because 25 *per cent.* will be deducted on account of the tax. That being so, he will naturally go to a bookmaker outside; he will go to a bookmaker who is not within the reach of the tax. By staking Rs. 100 he has a chance to get Rs. 400. The net result will be that Government will lose revenue. So, Sir, there is a limit up to which we can raise this tax and we cannot go beyond that limit. I hope Mr. Sabur will realise this point of view.

Mr. Banerji says that gambling should be checked. I have already said in reply to Mr. Sabur that the gambling propensity is inherent in human beings. It is very difficult to check it. But there is in existence a Gambling Act which attempts to put a stop to the widespread gambling by closing the places where people gather and which are kept by persons for private gambling. These places have been made illegal in Bengal.

Mr. Suresh Das Gupta has spoken about flush which, I believe, is a game of cards popular I think all over the province. I am not aware whether this flush is in existence in a wide scale or not, but it is very difficult to check persons playing cards in their own houses or residences. But if they participate in gambling dens that can be checked by Government.

Then, Sir, Mr. Kundu has said that he is opposed to the levy of taxation because godowns have been constructed in his district but they are lying empty. Mr. Kundu will realise that this construction of godowns is for the purpose of stocking foodgrains which Government will procure in the near future. Mr. Kundu cannot eat the cake and have it too at the same time. If godowns are not constructed in advance in order to enforce the procurement policy of Government Mr. Kundu will rise up and ask in this House why Government has not prepared for the emergency and why adequate provision has not been made for stocking foodgrains. He will criticise in

hat line. But if we prepare ourselves in advance and have godowns ready for stocking foodgrains Mr. Kundu will say why are these godowns constructed though they are not immediately required.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Thousands of rupees have been spent in Dinajpur without any work.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I have sufficiently dealt with all the points that have been raised; and with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali that the Bengal Finance (Extending) Bill, 1946, be taken into consideration, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 stands part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble stands part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Finance (Extending) Bill, 1946, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 3 o'clock on Tuesday. As agreed by both sides there will be no voting before half-past four on any day.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 10-45 a.m. till 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th July, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled
under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 30th July, 1946, at 3 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 206 members.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no question today. The general discussion of the Budget will now commence.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, may I put one question to the Ministry as to whether they intend to put any question on the agenda? There was no question on the last occasion and there is again no question today. Sir, it is a great privilege of the members of this House and we have been denied that privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: We have received reply to only one question. It was sent to the Press. But, as you know, there was a general strike yesterday; it has not yet been received by us.

General Discussion of the Budget.

MR. HARIPADA CHATTERJEE : মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয় । মুর্গাযমান পৃথিবীতে আবার বাংলায় বাৎসরিক বাজেট হাজির হয়েছে ।

রাজস্ব-সচিব ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালের ১০ কোটি টাকার বাটতি বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন । তাঁর আদায় হবে ৩২ কোটি, কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের কাছে Development Programme-এর জন্য পাবেন ১০। কোটি--এই মোট ৪২। কোটি কিন্তু খরচের বরাদ্দ ধরা হয়েছে ৫২ কোটি ২০ লক্ষ । এ বৎসরের প্রথমে গত বৎসরের উৎস যে ৭। কোটি টাকা ছিল, তা বোমান্স হজম করেও বাটতি পূরবে না । তাবপব আবার আগামী সনের জন্যও অন্ততঃ ২। কোটি না রাখলেও চলবে না । স্বতরাং ৫ কোটি টাকা ধাব করা ছাড়া উপায় নেই । করতাব প্রপাঁড়িত জনসাধারণের আব করতাব বহন কবাব ক্ষমতা নেই । তথাপি রাজস্ব সচিব হাল ছাড়েন নি । আপাততঃ motor spirit-র উপর Gallon প্রতি ১/১০ কব ধার্য্য কবে ৭৫ লক্ষ টাকা ভুলবেন বলেছেন কিন্তু বর্তমানে ঠিক করে উঠতে না পারলেও নুতন কব আব কি বসান যেতে পারে তাব জন্য বিশেষ অনুসন্ধান করছেন জানিয়েছেন অর্থাৎ বরাব উপব খাড়ার যা মানাব সংকল্প একেবাবে বর্জন কবেন নি ।

ইংরাজ সাম্রাজ্যবাদীদের কবল হতে আজও দেশ মুক্ত হয়নি । বহু সংগ্রাম করে, বহু স্বার্থ ত্যাগ কবে, কারাগার, লাঠি, গুলী, ফাঁসী বরণ কবে যে শাসন ব্যবস্থা আমরা লাভ করেছি তা আদর্শ নয় । সাম্প্রদায়িক ভিত্তিতে এই শাসন ব্যবস্থা রচিত করে সাম্রাজ্যবাদী ইংরাজ নেপথ্যে আছেন । মোটা মোটা মাহিনার উপর আমাদেব হাত দেবার উপায় নেই । ব্যয় বহল শাসন ব্যবস্থার ব্যয় কমিয়ে এনে টেক্স-দাতা গরীব জনসাধারণের ইচ্ছামত ঘোল আনা শাসন ব্যবস্থা প্রচলন কবাব ক্ষমতা আমাদেব নেই । তথাপি অপব্যয়, তেলা মাখায় তেল দেওয়া, আমরা বদ্ধ কবতে পারি । যতটুকু ক্ষমতা আমাদেব হাতে আছে, তাব পরিপূর্ণ স্বযোগ গ্রহণ করতে পারি । দেশের এই চরম দুর্দিনে সমবেদনা ও সহানুভূতি নিয়ে, রাজস্বের যে কয়টি পয়সা ব্যয় কবাব ক্ষমতা আমাদেব আছে, তাব প্রত্যেকটি পয়সা জনকল্যাণে ব্যয় করার দৃঢ় সংকল্প আমরা গ্রহণ করতে পারি । নদীর এক পাড় না ভাঙ্গলে অপর পাড় তরে না । ব্যক্তিগত ও দলগত স্বার্থকে বর্জন করতে না পারলে জাতিগত স্বার্থকে লাভ কবা যায় না । বড়ই দুঃখের সঙ্গে বলতে হচ্ছে রাজস্ব-সচিবের এই বাজেট ব্যবস্থা অপব্যয়, ব্যক্তিগত ও দলগত স্বার্থের পরিপুষ্টির ব্যবস্থা, তেলা মাখায় তেল দেবার ব্যবস্থা, অনুগ্রহ (patronage) বর্ধনের ব্যবস্থা, বেশ ভাল করেই আছে ; নেই কেবল হিন্দু মুসলমান আপামর জনসাধারণের--বাদের শোষিত অর্থে এই বাজেট তৈরী হচ্ছে--তাদের প্রতি সমবেদনা, সহানুভূতি ও দরদ । এমন কি Development programme-এ যে ১২ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টাকা খরচের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে তার পেছনে পর্য্যস্ত কোন স্বচিন্তিত কর্মপদ্ধতি নেই । যে Bureaucratic মনোবৃত্তি নিয়ে এই খরচের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, তা দেখে মনে হয়, ৫০০ কোটি টাকা হাতে পেলেও যে এঁরা ছিনিমিনি খেলতেন--জাতি গঠনের কিছুই করতে পারতেন না ।

পৃথমেই দেখা যাক, অপব্যয়ের একটি দৃষ্টান্ত। খাদ্য বিভাগে ঘাটতি ২,২৯,৭৬,০০০ ও নৌকা তৈরীতে লোকসান ১,৫৬,১৪,০০০--মোট ৩,৮৫,৯০,০০০ টাকা ক্ষতি। খাদ্যশস্য সরকার যে দরে কিনেছেন ও যে দরে বেচেছেন, তাতে প্রচুর লাভ হবার কথা। কোন ব্যবসাদারই এত লাভ পায় না। যে দরে গম, চাল ইত্যাদি কিনেছেন ও যে দরে বেচেছেন তা কোন ব্যবসাদার করলে hoarding ও black marketing charge পড়ত; সাধারণতঃ তারা ৯১০০ টাকা মণপ্রতি এর অভিরিক্ত দামে চাল কেনেন নি; বেচেছেন ১৫,১২৫০ টাকা দরে। অতএব লোকসান হবে কেন? পাঞ্জাব সরকার ত দেখিয়ে দিয়েছেন বাংলা সরকার গম কিনে কত লাভ করেছেন। কিন্তু এখন উল্টো গুঁড়ি এই লোকসানের কথা। কোন কোন ব্যক্তি এ ব্যাপারে কি পরিমাণ চুরি করলেন, তা কি ভাল কবে কোন দিন অনুসন্ধান হয়েছে, না হবে? কি রকম রক্ষি কাঠে, কি রকম নৌকা তৈরী হয়েছে, তা একবার বেলঘাটার খাল অঞ্চলে গেলেই বুঝতে পারবেন। এগুলিকে জলের উপর কোন রকমে ভাসিয়ে রাখতে মাসে মাসে পুচুর খবচ করতে হয়। একেবারে দিনে ডাকাতি। সেবার ৬ কোটি টাকার নৌকা তৈরীর ব্যাপারে যঁাবা সংশ্লিষ্ট ছিলেন, তাদের এখন আব দেখাচ্ছেন। কিন্তু সেবারকার অনেক সাধুই এখনও বহাল তব্বিতে মাতগুণি করছেন।

বাংলা দেশ দেউলিয়া পুদেশ বলে যাবা বলেন, তারা ঠিক বলেন না। বাংলা দেশে এখনও যা আদায় উল্লু হয়, আয়কর ও পাট গুল্ক বারদ “নেমিয়ার এওয়ার্ড” অনুযায়ী যা আমবা পাই, তাই দিয়ে ও স্বব্যবস্থা দ্বাৰা এই উপর ভারি (top-heavy) শাসন-ব্যবস্থা চালিয়েও আয় ব্যয়ের সমতা কবা যায় কিন্তু এত অপব্যয় ও অপচয় থাকলে তা সম্ভব হবে কি করে?

১০ কোটি টাকা যে ঘাটতি পড়েছে তা এই দুই অপচয় ও Civil supplyরূপ যে পাপ আমাদের ঘাড়ে চেপেছে তাব বারদ ৬ কোটি টাকা যে ব্যয় হবে, তা থেকেই ত মিটে যায়। সিভিল সাপ্লাইব জন্য একটি পয়সাও আমাদের ন্যায়তঃ ব্যয় কবা উচিত নয়। ২২ লক্ষ যুদ্ধরত লোক বাংলাব বৃকে বসে বসে আমাদের খাবার কেড়ে খেল। ৫০ লক্ষ লোক না খেয়ে মরল। পোডামাটি নীতি--Denial Policy চালিয়ে দুর্গ তিকে আবও বাড়ান হল। এব জন্য আমবা কেন সিভিল সাপ্লাই রূপ পাপ ঘাড়ে নেব। যে মানুষ এই দুর্ভিক্ষ সৃষ্টি কবেছেন, তাদের কোনদিন বিচাব কবে, নবহত্যাব দায়ে চবম দণ্ড দেওয়া হবে কি না জানিনে কিন্তু আপাততঃ এই পাপ--Civil Supply Departmentর সমস্ত খবচ যাদের আদেশে যুদ্ধ হয়েছে, তাদেরই বহন করা উচিত। লড়াই ইংরেজের--আমাদের নয়। ৭ সমুদ্র ১৩ নদীর পাড় থেকে খাবার নিয়ে না গেলে তাদের খাবার জোটে না; অথচ সেখানে একটা লোকও না খেয়ে মরল না--মরল এই হতভাগা বাংলা দেশে। ৬ কোটি টাকা Civil Supply Departmentএ খবচ--তাব প্রায় ৫ কোটি টাকা Pay, allowances, honorarium, etc. তে খবচ। যাদের কু-ব্যবস্থায় লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ খাবার পচে যায়, আব লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক না খেয়ে মরে, যাবা দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের অর্থ ব্যক্তি ও দলগত স্বার্থ পুষ্টিব জন্য লুটপাট কবে, তাদের বেতন না দিয়ে বেত দেওয়া উচিত--(Cheers hear, hear) এবং তাদের ও তাদের সংশ্লিষ্ট চোবা কাবাবাদীদের ধবে বিচাব করে প্রকাশ্য স্থানে ফাঁসি দেওয়া উচিত (Cheers)।

Civil Defenceএ ১৩,০৮,০০০; Extra Policeএ ১৪,৫৫,০০০; Home Guardএ ৪,৫০,০০০ --মোট ৩২ লক্ষ টাকা যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে--তাব এক পয়সা না কবলেও চলত। সমস্তটাই জাতি-গঠন-মূলক বিভাগে অক্লেশে দেওয়া যেতে পাবত।

আমাদের উপর ভারি (top-heavy) শাসন ব্যবস্থা। মুষ্টিমেয় বড় কর্তারা এমন দোহন করেন যে দলে ভাবি অসংখ্য কেরাণী কুল ও ভূত্যগণ কিছুই পান না--জাতি-গঠনমূলক কাজ ত পরের কথা।

যে দেশে দুবেলা দুমুঠো লোকে খেতে পায় না, সে দেশে তাদের অর্থ লাটগাহেব রূপী একটি শ্রেত হস্তী পুষতে ব্যয় হবে ১০,৭৬,৪০০ টাকা। এর উপর ভোটাদিকার নেই--আমরা খাই বা না খাই এ টাকা দিতেই হবে। তথাপি মন্ত্রীগণ লাটগাহেবের হাতে তাঁব মতলব মত (Discretionary grant) খবচ কবাব জন্য আরও ৪০,০০০ টাকা ভোট কবিয়ে দিতে চাচ্ছেন। মন্ত্রীগণ ৬ লক্ষ; তাদের পবামশ দাতাবা ৪০,০০০; Assembly বারদ ১১,৭৪,০০০র মধ্যে মেম্বারগণ ৫,৩৫,০০০; Council বারদ ৩,৪৭,৯০০র মধ্যে মেম্বারগণ--১,৪৩,০০০; Civil Secretariat ৪৫,৭০,০০০; কমিশনারগণ ৫,২৬,৬০০; District Administration, ১,৫৬,০৫,৭০০, ইত্যাদি, ইত্যাদি, পাবেন। বড় বড় heaven born কর্মচারীদের বেতনের এক পয়সার উপর আমাদের হাত দেবাব অধিকার নেই। নিজেরাও এক পয়সা কম নিয়ে ব্যয় সঙ্কোচ করব না অথচ গরীব ভূত্যদের জন্য মমতা বোধ কতখানি দেখুন! আমাদের Assembly Departmentএ আছে ৪৩ জন ও Council Departmentএ আছে ১৭ জন ভূতা। মাগি ভাতা (dearness allowance) বাবে

তাদের জন্য বাৎসরিক বরাদ্দ হয়েছে যথাক্রমে ৮,৫০০ ও ৩,২০০ অর্থাৎ গড়ে বেতনের হার দাঁড়াবে মাসিক Assembly Department এর ভূতাদের ১৬১০ ও Council Department এর ভূতাদের ১৫১১/০। এরা সকালে আসে, রাতে Assembly শেষ হলে বাড়ী যায়। ট্রাম বাস তখন বন্ধ হয়ে যায়, কাজেই হেঁটে যায়। T. A., D. A., C. A. কোন allowanceই পায় না। প্রধান মন্ত্রীর প্রচার বিভাগের (Publicity Branch) খরচ হবে ১১,৩১,০০০—সেখানে ১৮ জন ভূতা পাবে ২,৫০০ অর্থাৎ মাসিক ১১১০।

১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালে General administration এর খরচ হয়েছিল ১,৬৭,৬৬,০০০, এবার ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়েছে ৩,১৫,১৫,০০০ অর্থাৎ প্রায় ১১০ কোটি টাকা বেশী। বড় বড় কর্মচারীদের প্রতি কি দরদ। তাদের T. A., D. A., C. A., allowance, honorarium কোন প্রকার কাপ'ণ নেই। উপরন্তু যাতে তাদের মাথা ঠাণ্ডা থাকে ও বেজাজ খরাপ না হয়, সেজন্য ২ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে Secretariat Buildings air-conditioned করা হচ্ছে। যাতে এখানে ওখানে যেতে কষ্ট না হয় সেজন্য ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে ৪০০ খানি জিপ গাড়ী ও কয়েকখানি ব্রডগামী হালকা উড়ো জাহাজের (speedy light planes) ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে। এই ২৭ লক্ষ টাকাও জাতি-গঠনমূলক কাজে অনায়াসে ব্যয় করা যেত।

১৯৩৮-৩৯ সালে পুলিশ বিভাগে খরচ হয়েছিল ২,২১,২৭,০০০। ক্রমশঃ তা বাড়তে বাড়তে এবারে দাঁড়াল ৩,৬৫,০৫,০০০ অর্থাৎ মোট বৃদ্ধি প্রায় ১ কোটি ৪৪ লক্ষ টাকা।

পুলিশ ভাল করে খাওয়া দাওয়া করে যাতে আমাদের ভাল কবে ঠেগাতে পারে, সেজন্য উন্নত ধরনের অস্ত্র কিনে দেওয়া ইত্যাদি বাবদ এবার ১ কোটি ৭১ লক্ষ টাকা অতিরিক্ত ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। যে দেশের জনসাধারণ সকলে নিরস্ত্র সে দেশে পুলিশের হাতে নুতন নুতন অস্ত্র আপাততঃ নাই দিড়েন। কিন্তু কি ব্যাপার দেখুন:

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Strengthen the Armed Branch of the Calcutta Police.						
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
						Rs.
Mechanical transport for Bengal Police	...	...	...	...	...	4,70,000
Outstanding immediate demands of the vehicles for the Calcutta Police	...	...	...	...	...	3,40,000
Wireless scheme for Bengal Police	...	...	...	...	...	6,11,000
Calcutta Police wireless scheme	...	...	...	...	...	3,43,000
*	*	*	*	*	*	*

বলিহারী পুলিশ শাসন। এক পয়সাও না দিলে চলত। চোর, ডাকাত পুলিশ কত তাড়ায় তা দেশের লোক জানে। তারা পারে নিরস্ত্র নিরীহ জনতার উপর গুলী চালাতে। এই ত কলকাতার বৃক্কে কত শিশু, নারী, বৃদ্ধ, যুবা ছাত্র, হিন্দু, মুসলমান এদের গুলীতে মরল। এই ত সেদিন একজন নিরীহ মুসলমানকে কেমন করে গুলী করা হল—তারপর অলস্ত Lorryতে ফেলে দেওয়া হল এবং অলস্ত Lorry থেকে টেনে নিয়ে বার বাব লাখি মারা হ'ল। তারপর আজাদহিন্দ ফৌজের Captain আবদুল রসিদ—যাকে Muslim League defend করেছিল তার দণ্ড দেবার সময় সরকার বললেন যে তিনি সম্রাটের বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ ঘোষণা করেছিলেন বলে তার দণ্ড হ'ল না। তিনি নাকি সভ্যতার বিরুদ্ধে অপরাধ করেছিলেন—বলেই তাঁর দণ্ড হ'ল। Captain রসিদ নাকি একজন পলাতক সৈন্যকে গাছে বেঁধে লাখি মেরেছিল কিন্তু এখানের Sergeantরা নিরীহ শিশুদের গুলী করে মেরে ছিল। ঐ নিরীহ মুসলমানদের গুলী মারা হ'ল—অলস্ত আঙুনে ফেলা হ'ল—লাখি মারা হ'ল, তাতে কি সভ্যতার বিরুদ্ধে অপরাধ করা হ'ল না? আমার মনে হয় এদের নিরস্ত্র করে, Revolver কেড়ে নিয়ে বাংলার বাইরে বের করে দেওয়া উচিত, নতবা তাদের বাধ ভাঙকের সঙ্গে আলিপুর চিড়িয়াখানায় বন্দী করে রাখা উচিত।

জাতি গঠনমূলক বিভাগগুলিতে প্রথমতঃ বিমাতার স্নেহ বঞ্চিত হয়েছে, তারপর সেখানে সীমাহীন অপব্যয়।

কৃষি বিভাগে মোট ব্যয়—৩ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষ। গতবার grow more food schemeএ ৮০ লক্ষ টাকা কিভাবে অপব্যয় হয়েছে তা দেশবাণী হিন্দু মুসলমান সকলেই জানেন। এবারের বরাদ্দ হ'ল ১ কোটি

২৭ লক্ষ টাকা। তারপর Jute Regulation. Union Boardর ভিতর দিয়ে জনসাধারণের সাহায্যে একাধিক জুটরভাবে হতে পারে কিন্তু গতবার এর জন্য ব্যয় হয়েছে ৭৯,৮২ হাজার টাকা; এবার হবে ৯৩ লক্ষ টাকা। অর্থাৎ মোট ৩ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষের মধ্যে এইভাবে ২ কোটি ২০ লক্ষ টাকা উধাও হবে। কিছু লোক পোষা হবে বটে কিন্তু কৃষি প্রধান দেশে কৃষককুলের কোন উপকাৰই এতে হবে না।

Development Programmeএ খরচ বৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ১২ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টাকা। এতগুলি টাকা এবং সাধারণ আয় হতে জাতি-গঠনমূলক কাজে যা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তা অন্যান্য বিভাগের ব্যয় সংকোচ কবে আরও কিছু বাড়িয়ে নিয়ে হিসাব করে হুসিয়ার হয়ে খরচ করলে অনেক কিছু কবা যেতে পারত। জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদ, দেশ থেকে ম্যালেরিয়া তড়ান, সার্বজনীন প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার প্রবর্তন--যে কোন একটি কাজ ভালভাবে করা যেতে পারত। কিন্তু কোন স্ফুর্তিই কর্মপদ্ধতি নেই। আছে patronage অনুগ্রহ বর্ষণের ব্যবস্থা--আশ্রিত জনদের পুষবার ব্যবস্থা, যেন তেন প্রকারেণ এই ১২ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করা। সমস্ত planর পেছনে Bureaucratic মনোবৃত্তি স্পষ্ট ফুটে উঠেছে। বিস্তারিত আলোচনার সময় নেই--কয়েকটা দৃষ্টান্ত দেই। কৃষ্যাত চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত দূর করতে মোট ব্যয় কববেন ৪ লক্ষ টাকা--ছলনা ছাড়া একে কি বলব? শিক্ষা বিভাগে ব্যয়ের মধ্যে অনুগ্রহ বিতরণের কেমন ব্যবস্থা দেখুন--Improvement of 50 selected High Schools of the Province ৬৫,০০০ অর্থাৎ স্কুল প্রতি ১,২২৫, অনুগ্রহ বিতরণ। তেমনি Civil worksএ Improvement of 50 selected High Schools ১লক্ষ টাকা--অর্থাৎ পছন্দ মত অনুগত স্কুল প্রতি ২,০০০ টাকা। বুরোক্রাটিক (Bureaucratic) মনোবৃত্তি কেমন দেখুন। প্রাইমারী (Primary) স্কুলের Staffদের (শিক্ষকদের) শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থার জন্য ইমারত তৈরী হবে ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা। ৮৬ হাজার মৃতপ্রায় গ্রাম দিয়ে বাংলা দেশ তৈরী এর ছাত্র ও শিক্ষকরা যেসব কুঁড়ে ঘরে বাস করে তার চাল দিয়ে বর্ধার জল পড়ে অথচ শিক্ষকদের শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থার জন্য ১৫ লক্ষ টাকার ইমারত দরকার। দেশে যখন অশান্তি, তখন দুর্ভিক্ষ প্রণীড়িত লোকদের জন্য সোনার খালা গড়ান যেমন বাতুলতা, শিক্ষার যেখানে দুর্ভিক্ষ সেখানে এইরূপ ইমারতে অর্থব্যয়ও বাতুলতা। সকলকে লেখাপড়া শেখার এই দৃঢ়পন নিয়ে যদি উঠে পড়ে লাগতেন, তাহলে দেশে সাড়াও জাগত, কাজও হত। রুশিয়া যখন উঠে পড়ে লেগেছিল, তখন মালগাড়ীর মধ্যে পর্য্যন্ত স্কুল করেছে। আব এ দেশে ত কত মহা মহা পণ্ডিত গাছেব ছায়ায় বসে উচ্চ দর্শন শিক্ষা দিয়েছেন।

Development Programme হতে কৃষি বিভাগ পাবে ১ কোটি ২৯ লক্ষ টাকা--তার মধ্যে জমি ও ইমারতেই যাবে ৮৯ লক্ষ টাকা। ৫৮ লক্ষ টাকা Central Live stock Research Cum Breeding Stationএ এবার দেওয়া হবে তাব মধ্যে জমি ও ইমারতেই যাবে ৪৫ লক্ষ টাকা। গরীব গ্রামে স্কুল কবতে হলে বুরোক্রেশী আগে পাকা দালান তোলার ফরমাস করতেন। আর সেই ফরমাস মত কাজ কবতে যেয়ে ছাত্রদের বই বা লাইব্রেরীর বই কেনার সঙ্গতি পর্য্যন্ত গ্রামবাসীদের থাকত না। এবার দেখছি গো-কুল ও ছাগকুল পাক দালানে না উঠবে তাদের উন্নতি হবে না। বড় বড় ইমারত তৈরীতে বহু ভালবাসার লোক 'কন্ট্রাকটরী' পাবে, অনেকে বেশ দু পয়সা রোজগার কববে কিন্তু আসল কাজ সেই পরিমাণ হবে ত?

Goat multiplication schemeএ ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি হয়েছে ৩,০২,০০০। দেবা যাক goat কুলের বেশী বৃদ্ধি হয়, না goat officers কুলের বৃদ্ধি বেশী হয়।

Department of Fisheriesএর expansionর জন্য ৮ লক্ষ ২০ হাজার টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। এতে মৎস্যকুল কত বাড়বে জানিনে কিন্তু সব টাকাই যে officer কুল মারবেন তা বলাই হচ্ছে--"The Scheme provides for the appointment of an Additional Director of Fisheries and also for an increase in the number of Superintendents, District Fishery Officers and Fishery Overseers for work in the District".

কিন্তু এই শেষ নয়--"It also includes a provision for an experimental cum touring launch at a cost of about Rs. 3 lakhs.

Bhore Committeeএর মতে অন্ততঃ ৮ গুণ কুইনাইন চাষ যদি না বাড়ান যায় তাহলে দেশের প্রয়োজন যেন নিতান্ত না হলে নয়, সেইটুকু কুইনাইনও পাওয়া যাবে না অথচ Development Programmeএর এত টাকা হতে মাত্র ৩ লক্ষ ৩৯ হাজার টাকার বেশী তাবা কুইনাইন চাষ খাতে দেওয়া প্রয়োজন বোধ করলেন না। বাংলা দেশের অর্ধেক লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভোগে এবং প্রতি বৎসর ১০ লক্ষ লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় মরে অথচ Public Healthর প্রতি কত দরদ এবং ম্যালেরিয়া তড়ানর কি বিরাট আয়োজন। Malaria

Control Malaria Control including intensive malaria control in the fringe of the salt water lake area ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করেছেন ৩ লক্ষ টাকা।

কিন্তু যেখানে দরদ, সেই শাসন ও পুলিশ বিভাগে অত টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করেও কর্তাদের তৃপ্তি নেই। তাই তাদের ইমারত করবার জন্য Development Programme হতে পর্যাপ্ত কর্তারা টাকা না দিয়ে পারছেন না। এইবার দেশের উন্নতি না হয়ে যায় কোথায়!

Reconstruction of District and Subdivisional Offices— ৫ লক্ষ টাকা।

Construction of Police Buildings— ১২ লক্ষ টাকা।

জেলের ইমারত— ৬ লক্ষ টাকা।

“A special officer of high status” নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার surplus military জিনিষপত্র কিনতে; দেখি তিনি কি development করেন।

Lake area এতে একটি temporary Medical College এর জন্য ১৯ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করা হবে। এত টাকা খরচ কবে জিনিষটা temporary করা হবে কেন? এই কি সুলভিত plan? দেশের সব Medical School গুলিকে কি College এ পরিণত করা হয়ে গিয়েছে।

আমি যে অঞ্চলে থাকি, তার একটা গ্রামেই বসন্তে ৩০০ লোক মবল। কর্তাবা খবরের কাগজ মাফক জানালেন, না, অত লোক মরেনি, মাত্র ৭৫ জন মবেছে। তারপর মডক লাগল। এমন গ্রাম নেই যেখানে ৩০১৪০ জন বসন্তে মবল না। কিন্তু খবরের কাগজে ঐ ধামাচাপা দেবার বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেওয়া ছাড়া কর্তারা আর কিছুই করলেন না। হিন্দু-মুসলমান নর-নারী কিভাবে যে পল্লীর মধ্যে মবল, তা একটু উঁকি দিয়েও দেখলেন না। অনু নেই, বস্ত্র নেই, শিক্ষা নেই, স্বাস্থ্য নেই--আছে দুভিক্ষ, প্লাবন, মহামারি, আব সবকারী দুর্ভাগ্য।

সরকার বলেছেন খাদ্য বিভাগে লোকসান হয়েছে ২ কোটি টাকা। কিন্তু আমি বলছি এ বিভাগে চুপি ও অপচয় হয়েছে বহু কোটি টাকা। গত বছর (last year) সাহেব বলেছিলেন যে বাংলায় এক বৎসরের খাদ্য মজুত ত আছেই--তার উপরও ১ লক্ষ টনের উপর মজুত আছে। সরকার খাদ্যশস্য আরও খরিদ কবেছেন। ভাবত সরকার এ থেকে অতি অর্পই নিয়েছেন। কিন্তু এখন শুনি--গুলামগুলি প্রায়ই খালি। আমার খবর হচ্ছে--কাগজে কলমে যে stock গুলামে আছে বলা হচ্ছে, তার কিছুই গুদামে নেই। সেখানে প্রকৃত চুপি হয়েছে। আমি Challenge করছি--কোন নিরপেক্ষ তদন্ত কমিটি দিয়ে সরকার stock মিলিয়ে ওজন করে দেখুন।

সাম্রাজ্যবাদী ইংরাজ ও তার দালালদের হাত থেকে দেশের হিন্দু-মুসলমান জনসাধারণের হাতে যতদিন শাসন ব্যবস্থা না আসবে ততদিন দেশের সত্যিকার বাজেট তৈরী হবে না। হিন্দু ও মুসলমান বলে বাঙ্গালীকে হিঁস্কাঁড়িত করার খোল আনা প্রেবণা তৃতীয় পক্ষের নিকট হতেই এসেছে। স্মরণ্য তারা এবং তাদের দালালরা যতদিন বিভাগিত না হবে, ততদিন দেশের দুঃখও মুচবে না--সত্যিকার বাজেটও হবে না। কিন্তু থাক সে কথা। আজ যদি ঐটি মুসলমান দেশভক্তগণ বাঙ্গালীর পক্ষ থেকে বাংলার শাসনব্যবস্থা হাতে নেন, তাতে দুঃখিত হব না। পাকিস্তান যানে ত পবিত্র ভূমি। সেখানে মানুষ মানুষকে নিশ্চয়ই শোষণ করবে না; পীড়ন করবে না। স্মরণ্য বাংলা পাকিস্তানই হোক। কিন্তু আজ পাকিস্তানের নামে দেশ হয়েছে জুয়াচোরের স্থান, ঠগ্গীস্থান এবং আর কিছুদিন এ বকম চললে সমস্ত বাংলা হবে গোরস্থান।

সর্বশেষে বলি, রাজস্ব সচিবের বিরুদ্ধে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে আমার বলার কিছুই নেই। তিনি ভদ্র ও শিক্ষিত কিন্তু তার বাজেট ব্যবস্থাকে ও তার অবস্থিতির আবহাওয়াকে আমি সমর্থন করতে পারি না।

Renunciation of Titles.

Khan Bahadur SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

So long I was referred to and addressed in this House as Khan Bahadur Sharfuddin Ahmad. From this afternoon I desire that I should be addressed as only Sharfuddin Ahmad. The reason is that you must have heard that—

Khan Bahadur MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, I have also renounced my title.

Mr. SHARFUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I do not like to keep this House in suspense—

Khan Bahadur FAZLUR RAHMAN (Mymensingh): Sir, I have also renounced my title.

Khan Bahadur MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I have also done the same.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, every member of this House belonging to the Government side has in accordance with the decision of the Council of the All-India Muslim League renounced his title and has written to the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal about that.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, we regret that we have not got any title to renounce. So we are asking the Britishers to quit India.

(A VOICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BENCHES: Why? There are Maharajas.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মননীয় মহানায়ক মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি আগামী বছরে যখন নববর্ষের উপাধি বিতরণের সময় আসবে তখন আপনারা গভর্নমেন্টের কাছে উপাধি দেবার জন্য recommendation করবেন কি না?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We can say this much that we are not going to recommend any Muslim for any title—at least so far as I am concerned.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, within the time at my disposal it is not possible to fully and fairly criticise the Budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will get 15 minutes. Will it do?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, let me speak.

I can say without any fear of being contradicted that the budgetary policy has not at all changed. I shall not discuss in details the figures of allotments. My friend, Mr. Chatterjee, has given you the detailed figures and has been able to prove that the same old budgetary policy is still continuing, namely, that the budget allotments are not so much for the real nation-building work or development as for the distribution of patronage to the few favourites, friends and relations of the budget-maker and his colleagues in the Treasury Benches and other members supporting the Government. I must admit that the Budget statement this year has been very lucid. Apparently, the Budget seems to be a very welcome Budget, for about Rs. 20,15,00,000 has been provided for nation-building departments and development schemes. But, Sir this allotment also includes heavy amounts as pay, honoraria and salary of the staff. It also includes costs of acquisition of lands and properties, costs of plants, machineries and tools and costs of construction of buildings which alone will cover four crores of rupees. So you can well imagine that very little will be left over for actual development schemes and real nation-building work. We all know that these budgetary allotments, again, are not entirely appropriated but remain unspent. There is no guarantee this year that the entire budgetary allotments will be spent. It is only a nice show in the Budget that heavy sums are allotted to nation-building departments but nobody cares afterwards to see what amount is actually spent on those departments.

Now, Sir, I must confess that the Hon'ble Minister is frank and honest and has made a confessional statement in his budgetary statement apprehending the failure to pursue the schemes. He has said that such retarding factors as would arise in this connection would consist in lack of materials

and trained personnel—not in lack of finance or initiative. He had also said, “As I have hinted earlier in the course of this statement unexpected difficulties in the procurement of building materials, tools, plants and particularly of trained technicians may stand in the way of rapid progress. But with earnestness, goodwill and co-operation there is no reason why a substantial part of the programme laid down for the current year should not be successfully executed.” So he has anticipated his failure and has admitted that these projects may not be taken up and the entire scheme left off during the current year. This is very good of him.

I shall now come to the Civil Supplies Department. Sir, the system of rationing, procurement and distribution of food-stuffs are most unsatisfactory and do not justify the maintenance of the department and the very high level of expenditure therefor. The sooner it is abolished, the better for all of us concerned. The Province has been groaning under the heavy burden of this absolutely worthless and hopelessly corrupt department. With the exception of a very few, every person in the department is corrupt and dishonest. Not only are they corrupt and dishonest but complete chaos is reigning in the department, regularity and system are unknown, and promptness which is essential for real service to people is not seen anywhere near it. Go there empty-handed and you will return disheartened; but go there with your pocket full and there will be nothing in which you will not succeed and the staff there will at once imbibe the nature of proverbial “Kamdhenu”. They will never respect public opinion. The Secretary of a Food Committee who would oblige the Inspector and other officers would be made permanent and no amount of protest would be able to remove him from his position. He along with the Civil Supply Staff will be free to share the booty of the black-marketeers of sugar, cloth and kerosene. Permits will be issued only to send the articles into the black-market. An actual complaint was lodged to the District Magistrate against Sri Kalipada Bhowmick, the then Subdivisional Controller at Dinajpur, but since then he has been promoted. The Procurement Department has been bought up by the Chief Agents, and that department has been ignoring the interests of agriculturists, *jotedars* and rice-mill owners in the interests of the agents and sub-agents. So far as the Enforcement Department is concerned corruption is rampant there. Even when specific complaints are made, the department shows no enthusiasm only if their pockets are full. Instances of such complaints can be multiplied but who is going to start serious enquiries into those complaints? We therefore find that though in theory procurement, rationing and control can ensure proper distribution and stop black-marketing, in Bengal it is quite the opposite in practice. So unless the Civil Supplies and the Enforcement Departments are manned by a batch of scrupulously honest men, there is no hope of improvement. Without the introduction of full-scale rationing and wholesale procurement, black-marketing can never be stopped and equal distribution ensured. Normal trade distribution is much better than the present system. In the beginning even under present circumstances there may be chaos and disorder but under healthy and free competition normal conditions are sure to be restored. At the least the revenues of Bengal will be saved of Rs. 5 crores, 23 lakhs and odd which may be diverted and appropriated for fighting the epidemic diseases which take a very heavy toll every year in Bengal or for introducing free and compulsory primary education.

Then, Sir, as regards the boat construction business the less said the better. I do not know why the Government took the responsibility of floating those boats.

As regards the storing of foodgrains Government failed to make satisfactory arrangement in every way. Unsatisfactory storage arrangement has not only wasted huge amount of foodstuffs but has also been a cause of huge losses to Government. Sir, the well-known theory of conservation of energy has been falsified by the efforts of Government. They have been in

the habit of wasting foodstuffs while people were starving; they have been wasting money on erecting huge godowns when there was nothing to be stocked in those godowns. They sent out men in the districts for the working of godowns although those godowns even after construction remained empty for a long time and there was no work to be done. That was how the Government was making criminal waste of huge public money. So, Sir, I would suggest that Government should not take the responsibility of storing food-stuffs and waste food and kill people.

Sir, there has been an increase of 2½ crores in the ordinary expenditure. We support the increment for giving retrospective effect to the present rate of dearness allowance and for increase of pay in the low paid staff in the different Government departments, but, Sir, we do enter our emphatic protest against the increment for expansion of the police staff, either civil or armed, for maintaining a fleet of 400 Jeep cars and a number of speedy light planes and for air conditioning the Secretariat Buildings. Sir, these are increments for luxurious expenditure and could have waited when the famine is staring us in our face and when no adequate allotments could have been made for nation-building departments and development. In this connection, Sir, I would submit that you have only allotted about 38 *per cent.* of the total expenditure for the nation-building departments. As I submitted earlier, all these include salaries, honorarium and cost of construction and cost of materials. The allotments for the development schemes are for schemes which have been copied practically from the post-war development schemes. Now, there are two years', three years', five years'—that is, long-term—schemes in those post-war development schemes. I have examined and found that allotments in almost all the schemes have been less than those prescribed and calculated in the schemes themselves. So, I do not know if they will follow the exact periods to be followed, as suggested in the post-war schemes. I do not know how they are expecting to complete the schemes. There is no guarantee or no indication as to how the money will come for continuing the schemes till the last.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has done well to publish the correspondence that passed between the Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department, and the Chief Secretary of the Provincial Government. This piece of letter gives out that really these development schemes are not schemes for real development but for employing the *ex-service* personnel and making some other employments. I will read two or three sentences from the letter and I believe this will give enough indication of what I am going to say. "Specially additional expenditure on services like medical and educational expansion which involve heavy recurring commitments should naturally be confined to the more urgent schemes and preparatory measures, especially those which provide employment for *ex-service* personnel."....."In certain classes of cases, *e.g.*, 'Grow More Food', resettlement of *ex-servicemen* on land, further education and technical training of *ex-servicemen*," etc.

Now, Sir, there are three last lines which are very significant saying that the funds for continuing these development schemes till the last will also have to be contributed from the provincial revenue because the Secretary has made it clear—"Provincial Governments are requested to bear in mind the importance of enforcing the usual financial and technical control over the expenditure met from Central funds and husbanding the Provincial resources, having regard to the fact that the 5-year plan as a whole has to be financed from the joint resources of the Provinces and the Centre."

So, in a sense the Budget is not so bright as it apparently seems to be. It may be bright for the maker of the Budget and his colleagues in the treasury benches.

Sir, I will now touch a few other subjects in the budget. In examining the Red Book I find that in some six cases very trifling grants shown as donations for charitable purposes have been provided under the head "57—

Miscellaneous''. This sort of pittance and tinkering grants should always be discouraged. Rupees 13 lakhs have been provided for the establishment of tuberculosis hospitals at Amulia and Kanchrapara. This is indeed laudable, though quite inadequate to cope with the ever-increasing cases of the malady. It is very strange that nothing has been provided for the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital which is one of the most service-rendering hospitals, is an established hospital and is actually rendering immense service to us. Nothing has also been provided for medical schools run by the public.

Sir, we find that about Rs. 78 lakhs were spent for jute regulation in the year 1945-46 and Rs. 93 lakhs have been provided for this year. This expenditure, I submit, is mere waste. Jute regulation was taken up, as far as I could understand, with the object of ensuring fair and equitable price for jute to the cultivators, but, in effect, it has been for the benefit of the rich mill-owners. When fair price became possible, it was artificially lowered down by fixing maximum price only and not minimum though we in the Opposition insisted on fixing a minimum price for jute times without number. This good revenue might have been profitably utilised for better and more irrigational projects.

Sir, Rs. 92,10,000 has been budgeted for construction and improvement of provincial highways, major district roads, etc. The North Bengal highway was taken up long before the last war had commenced, but there has been no progress worth mentioning up till now. The District Board is not taking care of the road, nor is the Government taking any care of the road. As a result a number of very deep pits looking like tanks have been formed on the roads, near village Sarbamangala, police-station Gangarampur, in Dinajpur. Agriculturists of this side cannot take paddy to the market for sale. Year before last there were two serious cases of accidents. One old widow and a cart man were drowned and died while crossing the breaches. I do not know who is responsible for this criminal neglect and death.

Sir, I will now speak about one very important thing. Loss has been shown in the trading department, but it is very strange that Government are purchasing rice from the mill owners of Dinajpur at the rate of Rs. 10-8 per maund of 80 tollas a seer, but they are selling the same rice at Dinajpur and elsewhere at prices between Rs. 13 and Rs. 16. Now apparently they are making profits, huge profits which normal traders could never expect. If the price of rice be Rs. 10-8 at Dinajpur, at the most it can be sold at Calcutta at Rs. 11-8, but how is it that Government is making apparently a huge profit but at the same time showing a loss in the trading department in their Budget?

Sir, I won't take any more time. Lastly, I will add that there has been nothing to indicate that the political prisoners convicted or otherwise will be released. We have obtained a promise—I do not know if it was obtained by force—but we are expecting that on the 15th August the jails will all be empty of political prisoners.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITY : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়—আমার যে বক্তব্য এই বক্তব্য—লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা বিরুদ্ধে বেশী না হ'লেও যে Policy যে নীতি অনুসারে তাঁরা এতকাল ধরে কাজ চালিয়ে আসছেন—সেই নীতি সম্বন্ধেই আমি বলব। সেই সম্বন্ধে বলতে গিয়ে—দেখাতে হয় গত দেড়শো বছরের ইতিহাস। গত দেড়শো বছরেতে আমাদের দেশে যে বাজেট হয়ে আসছে সেই বাজেটের ভেতর আমরা দেখতে পেয়েছি শাসন ও শোষণ। শাসনের জন্য বড় বড় কর্তৃচাৰী বেশী বেশী বেতন দিয়ে রেখে দেশের লোকের কাছ থেকে অর্থ অপহরণ করা হয়েছে। High Court-এর জজদের মাইনে চার হাজার টাকা হওয়াব দরকার ছিল না। কমিশনারদের মাইনে ৩,৭৫০ টাকা হওয়া আবশ্যিক ছিল না। আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়দের যে সেক্রেটারীরা তাদের মাইনে Scheduled কববার কোন আবশ্যিক ছিল না। জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট এবং বিভিন্ন বড় বড় কর্তৃচাৰী আইন অনুসারে বর্তমানে তাদের মাইনের উপর আমাদের হাত দেবার ক্ষমতা নাই বটে, কিন্তু সেই সমস্ত মাইনে আমাদের জনসাধারণকে বহন করতে হয়, এবং তারপরে প্রাদেশিক গভর্ণমেন্ট কর্তৃচাৰীদের মাইনের উপর আমাদের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে। যেহেতু হাইকোর্টের জজ, কমিশনার, লিট সাহেব ও জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের মাইনে কমান যাচ্ছে না।

জতএব Deputy Magistrate, Circle Officer, ও দারোগা সাহেবদেরও মাইনে কমান যায় না। শুধু কমান যায় না, তা নয়, তার উপর আবার তাদের Daily allowance, Dearness allowance দিতে হয়। এই নীতির ফলেতে আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে বাজেট করেছেন সেই বাজেটেতে দেখতে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে সেই বাজেটে Super Structure Establish করবার চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে। তাব foundation গলে পড়ে ধবসে যাওয়ার উপক্রম হয়েছে। আমরা জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট, Subdivisional Officer ও অন্যান্য অফিসারদের চলাফেরার জন্য ৪০০ জীপ গাড়ীর ব্যবস্থা কবেছি এবং Light planeএর ব্যবস্থা কবেছি। আমরা তাদের যে সমস্ত কর্তৃত্বাধী তাদেরও Dearness allowance ১৯৪৪ সালের জানুয়ারী মাস থেকে দেবার ব্যবস্থা কবেছি এবং আরও অনেক project নিয়েছি। পুলিশ ও কৃষি বিভাগে সাড়ে ছয় কোটিব ও বেশী টাকা ধার্য কববার চেষ্টা কবেছি, তাতে দেখা যায় সেটা তাদের মাইনে, তাদের allowance, তাদের ঘর সারান, building constructionএর জন্য। এই যে জিনিষ এবং ফলেতে দেশের লোক জনসাধারণ যারা চাষ করে, যারা কাপড় বোনে, যারা কাপড় কাচে, কিংবা Factoryতে কাজ করে তাদের কি লাভ হবে? তাবাই হচ্ছে বাংলা দেশ, বাংলা দেশ কয়েক জন মন্ত্রী নিয়ে নয়—বাংলা দেশ Assemblyর কয়েকজন মেম্বরকে নিয়ে নয়—বাংলা দেশ কয়েকজন জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট, কমিশনার ও লাট সাহেব নিয়ে নয়। বাংলা দেশেব হিন্দু মুসলমান অগণিত ব্যক্তি—যারা চাষ কবে, যারা মাঠে খাটে, কাপড় কাচে, তাঁত বোনে, সূতা কাটে, তারাই আমাদের বাংলা দেশ। তাদের জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে? আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছেন—Nation Buildingএর জন্য যে টাকা ধরা হয়েছে তা এই ভাবত গভর্নমেন্ট আমাদের দেবেন। আমাদের ভাবনাব কোন কাণ্ড নাই—আনন্দের কথা। কিন্তু আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে আমি অনুরোধ কবর আপনাব মারফৎ তিনি যদি Nation Building কবতে চান, জাতি গঠন কবতে চান, আমি আশা করি তিনি একটি Illustrious family থেকে এসেছেন, তা যদি তিনি কবতে চান—তাহলে একটা ছোট বই, বড় বড় Economic theoryব বই নয় যা M. A. Classএ Professorরা ছাত্রদের পড়ায়, তা নয় একটা ছোট বই ২০।২৫ পৃষ্ঠাব বইয়ের কথা বলব। তিনি যদি অনুগ্রহ কবে পড়েন তাহ'লে তিনি শুধু যে উপকৃত হবেন তা নয়, সারা বাংলা দেশ উপকৃত হবে। সেটা হচ্ছে মহাত্মা গান্ধীব Constructive Programme সম্বন্ধে বই। কাজেই বাংলা দেশকে যদি গড়তে হয়, তিনি বলেছেন প্রথম থেকে, ভেতর থেকে গড়তে হবে। তা কবতে হলে আপনাকে তাঁতীব বাড়ীতে সূতা দিতে হবে, চাষীদের বাড়ীতে সূতা তৈরী কববার পদ্ধতি দিতে হবে। ছোট ছোট যে সমস্ত কুটির শিল্প নষ্ট হবে গেছে—সেই কুটির শিল্পেব ব্যবস্থা কবতে হবে। গ্রাম্য শিল্প Village Industry যা নষ্ট হয়ে গেছে তাব পুনঃ প্রতিষ্ঠাব ব্যবস্থা কবতে হবে। তবে গিয়ে শ্রমিকদের বাড়ীতে, চাষীদের কাছে পয়সা আসবে। তা যদি না হয় তাহ'লে এই সমস্ত পয়সা ও সমস্ত টাকা, আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের সব ওভেচাড়া খালাসেও সমস্ত টাকা ঐ Contractorদের কাছে চলে যাবে কিংবা যারা ধনী তাদের কাছে চলে যাবে। তাবা অধিকতর লাভবান হবে, এবং যারা গরীব তাবা অধিকতর গরীব হয়ে যাবে।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, আর একটা কথা আমি এই সপ্তে বলতে চাই। সেটা হচ্ছে এই—দেনা করে আমাদের এই বাংলা গভর্নমেন্ট চলছে। বাংলা গভর্নমেন্টেব বর্তমান আয় ৩২ কোটি টাকা এবং খরচ ধরা হয়েছে current expenditure ৪১ কোটি টাকা। কি করে এই ৯ কোটি টাকাব ঘাটতি পূরণ হবে? যদি বা এই বছর পূরণ হয়—আগামী বছর মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি কববেন? একথা বললে চলবে না—আজ Patrol Tax বসান, কালকে আর একটা Tax বসাবেন। যদি তা করা সম্ভবপর না হয়, তাহলে কাপড় অনুসারে কোট কাটবার ব্যবস্থা কবতে হবে। তাছাড়া অন্য উপায় নেই। তা যদি না করা হয় আমি বলতে পারি আজ না হোক, কাল না হোক, কিছুকাল পরে, যেমন ফরাসী দেশে বিদ্রোহ হয়েছিল, যেমন আমেরিকাতে সামান্য Taxএব বিরুদ্ধে বিদ্রোহ হয়ে আমেরিকা যেমন চলে গিয়েছিল ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদেব হাত থেকে, যেমন আজকে রাশিয়াতে জারের প্রভাব চলে গেছে, ভেনিজুয়েলাতে ব্রিটিশ গভর্নমেন্টেব প্রভাবও চলে যাবে এবং তার সপ্তে তাদের যারা সাহায্য করে তাবাও এদেশে থেকে ধুয়ে মুছে চলে যাবে। এবং এই যে ভবিষ্যৎ বাণী এটা যে কোন লোকেই করতে পারে। কারণ আমরা একটা আশ্রয় গিবিব উপর বসে রয়েছি। সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি এটা ভাবতে পারি না যে কোটি কোটি বাংলার নিবনু নবনাবী যেখানে মবে যাচ্ছে, খেতে পাচ্ছে না, আজ সেখানে ১৯৪৪ সাল থেকে Dearness allowance দিতে হবে, এব মানে আমি বুঝতে পারি না। আজ যদি আমাদের বাংলা দেশকে ঝাঁচাতে হয় এবং বাংলা দেশকে ঠিক পথে রাখতে হয়, তাহ'লে আমাদের প্রত্যেককে, এবং তার তেতর Bengal Assemblyর মেম্বরদের, মন্ত্রীদের এবং সকলের আবও কম মাইনে নেওয়া উচিত, আবও কম allowance নেওয়া উচিত। এবং নিয়ে সে সমস্ত টাকা নিবনু নবনাবী গঠনমূলক কাজের জন্য নিয়োজিত করা উচিত। Writers' Buildingsএর Air conditioningএর জন্য যে টাকা ধরা হয়েছে—মাননীয় শ্রীকারের মারফৎ বন্ধুদের এই কথা বলছি যে আজকে আমাদের air conditioned বাড়ীতে না থাকলেও

চলবে। যদি বাজেটকে এইভাবে গঠন করা যায়, তাহ'লে আশা বাঁচতে পারি। এখন এটা কিভাবে পরিবর্তন করা যেতে পারে? এখানে আমি একটা বৌলিক কথা আপনার মারফৎ আমার বন্ধুবরের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। তা হচ্ছে এই বাজেটকে যদি Revolutionary Character দিতে হয়—তাহ'লে একটা section নিয়ে মন্ত্রী গঠন করলে চলবে না। অবশ্য আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলছি আজকে এই যে Representatives of People নিয়ে মন্ত্রী করা হয়েছে, আমি তাতে আনন্দিত। আজকে সকলে মিলে সকল প্রতিনিধি—যদিও মন্ত্রী না করতে পারে, এক section লোকের প্রতিনিধি এসে মন্ত্রী করছেন, এটা আশংকার কথা। কিন্তু আমার ভয় হয় সত্যি এইভাবে বেশী দূর এগোন যায় না শত ভেদেচা সত্ত্বেও। যদি এগোতে হয়, বিপুল-মূলক ও গঠনমূলক সত্যিকার বাজেট তৈরি করতে হয়—তবে Treasury Benchএর অদল বদল করতে হবে। তা যদি সাহস করা যায় তাহ'লে বাংলা দেশে সত্যিকার গঠনমূলক কাজ করা যায়। তা করবার সাহস কি আমাদের আছে? আমি বলছি না কংগ্রেস perfect এবং লীগের সমস্তই খাবাপ—তা আমি বলি না। কিন্তু আজকে যে পরিস্থিতি তাতে সাহস করে হাত ধরাধরি করে আমরা কি এগোতে পাবো না, গঠনমূলক কাজ কি এইভাবে করতে পাবো না? যদি হয় সেটা বাংলা দেশের পবন সোভাগ্য। আজ বহু বৎসর থেকে সেই ১৭৫৭ সালের পূর্ব থেকে যে শোষণ আরম্ভ হয়েছে এবং যে শাসন আরম্ভ হয়েছে, এব ফলতে আমরা কুন্ড পৃষ্ঠ ও নুন্ড দেহ হয়েছি। তাই বলছিলাম আমরা যদি হাতবরাধি করে এগোতে পাবি তাহ'লে এই অবস্থার নিরাকরণ হতে পারে। তা যদি সম্ভব হতে পারে তাহ'লে আমার লীডারের permission নিয়ে বলতে পারি—আমাব মনে হয় সর্বু ভাবতীয় নীতিও তাই হবে। ভারতবর্ষের বিভিন্ন রাজনীতি বিশেষ করে মুসলীম লীগ যে পন্থা নিয়েছে সেই পন্থা এবং কংগ্রেসের পন্থা—দুটি মিলিয়ে যদি দেশকে গঠন করবার স্রবিধা হয়, এবং লীগ মন্ত্রীরা যদি সচেষ্ট হন তাহ'লে, আমরা মনে হয়, কংগ্রেস খুব আনন্দের সহিত তা গ্রহণ করবে। আমি এই appeal আমার বন্ধুদের কাছে করছি।

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while hearing the statement submitted by the Finance Minister and while going through the Budget Estimates that have been presented before the House we have been surprised at the absence of any formulation or enunciation of a policy on the part of this Ministry with regard to labour. Of course, with our experiences of what the League Ministry has been in the past and what it is today with the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy as its chief—the person who as a Labour Minister in the past had done more harm, more mischief than any one else to the working classes in Bengal.....(Cries of “Question” from the Muslim League Benches).....with these experiences no one of us should, of course, have been surprised or astonished. This time, however, hopes and expectations were raised in us. Sir, this expectation was raised in our minds because at the helm of the Labour Department this time is a Minister who in the past had been seen holding progressive views, who in the past had been found associating himself with the progressive and revolutionary working class movement—I mean the Hon'ble Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed. Our surprise therefore is all the more great this time because of the absence of any enunciation of policy. With this element of surprise and astonishment is also mingled an element of sorrow because of the fact that though Bengal is the largest Province in the whole of India with regard to population and size, though Bengal has got the largest amount of working class population concentrated in it, yet Bengal has got no policy, no programme, no planning with regard to labour while smaller provinces having lesser number of working class population amongst them are coming out with a plan, with a programme and with a policy of their own. (Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Example please.) I am giving examples just now. Don't be impatient. Only the other day, I mean it is within a month, the Labour Minister of Bombay made a statement declaring its policy which revealed an all-out attempt to ameliorate—not temporarily but on a permanent basis—the conditions of working classes in Bombay.

Sir, I hope members of this House know that during the Congress Ministry various provinces, such as Bihar, Bombay, Central Provinces, United Provinces and Madras appointed Labour Enquiry Committees whose recommendations are now ready with the result that these provinces can now go forward. They have got a clear-cut programme before them. They know

what are the requirements of labourers in their provinces and they know also in what way their conditions are to be improved.

I am aware, Sir, that a few years back the Labour Commissioner of Bengal was entrusted with the task of carrying on wage census into Howrah and Calcutta. We do not know anything about it now, whether such an investigation was at all carried out and what are the results and what are the recommendations. I also remember, Sir, that a few years back an investigation into the family budget of industrial workers was ordered in Bengal. We do not know where we stand now, whether any such enquiry was held or not, what are the results and what are the recommendations. The Budget before us certainly makes mention of a sum which will be expended for making investigations into the family budget of the industrial workers. Are we then to suppose that nothing has been done so long, or are we to suppose that something was done and we are now to expect the results and certain constructive efforts on the part of this Ministry?

Sir, the absence of a plan or programme, whatever it might have meant at the time of peace, has become a positive source of danger now in the year 1946 after the war has ended; for in the wake of cessation of hostilities have cropped up various problems which call for immediate solution. I would only refer to a few. There is the problem of unemployment. I can give you information, Sir, that in a small area of Cossipore, within the last four or five months, about ten thousand people have been dismissed from service. This is a tragedy that people who are able-bodied, who are willing to work, the State which is responsible for each and everyone of us cannot provide employment for them. They do not beg for money, they do not beg for doles; they beg for work, they demand work; but this Government here cannot give them employment, neither they have got a plan or programme for giving them employment. That is the tragedy in which we are meeting here.

In this connection I would like to draw your attention and the attention of this House to a problem, a problem which arose because of the misdeeds of the past League Ministry. I beg to refer to the cases of workers who were externed from the city of Calcutta and from the Province of Bengal even. I would particularly like to draw the attention of the House to the case of Electric Supply workers about 40 of whom—I think it is more than 40—were externed as early as in the year 1940 from Calcutta and from Bengal. What was their fault? As far as we know their fault was that they belonged to a union against which a rival union had been formed under the inspiration of the then Labour Minister. In fact, Sir, very strange things happened at that time. At the time of service of notice upon the persons this alternative was put to them—whether they were prepared to abandon their old union which was under the inspiration of an honourable member of this House, I mean Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, a union of which my poor humble self was the President and am still President, and join the union that had been started under the inspiration of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, the then Labour Minister of Bengal, and they were further given the allurements that in that circumstance they would not have to leave Calcutta and externment orders would not be served upon them. That is the story, Sir. I venture to point out that it is the moral duty of this Ministry now to right the wrong that was done to them. (Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Not to make room for others.) I think the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation is such a big organisation that it is not difficult for them to absorb 40 persons. Our demand is to take them back in their old posts. Our demand is to take them back in posts but not in a grade lower than that which they were holding previously. But that is not the point. I will not be divulging any secret if I say that we approached the Labour Minister on this point and the difficulty that was mentioned was the difficulty of forcing a decision on the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. That is a difficulty which those who are of our way of thinking do

not at all feel. (Mr. HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Because you have no responsibility.) Those who hold responsibility in other provinces also do not feel any difficulty. I am just going to quote to show you what they did. This is from the "Report on Labour in India" published by the Central Government. This refers to the acceptances by the mill-owners of Bombay of the recommendations made by the Bombay Government under Congress Ministry. "These acceptances were however not made by employers entirely of their own free will. In some cases the Governments concerned issued resolution and notifications recommending their adoption by the employers. It was obvious that non-acceptance of the recommendations made would be followed by a legislative coercion." That is what happened in Bombay and in other provinces. There was threat of legislative coercion and if the Calcutt Electric Supply Corporation had got the courage to reject the recommendations, had got the courage to turn down the intention shown by the Ministry here, then I think we should have it done by legislative enactments.

I give you another quotation of another example how the Congress Ministry in other provinces had their intention carried out by the mill owners and proprietors of those provinces.

As far as Madras is concerned, the Minister for Labour was successful as a result of his personal efforts in this matter "to secure recognition by the employers of all Unions which were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act." I am also referring to a case in which the Ministry at Madras had had reinstated the tramway workers who were discharged long before the Congress Ministry came into office there. So if there is a will there is a way. If the Ministry here feels that they are responsible to the poor workers who lost their jobs as a result of those extermination orders, if they feel that they are responsible, then it is up to them to see that they get their employment back.

Sir, I do not like to take any more time of the House. I would simply like to draw the attention of the Labour Minister to the policy laid down by the Congress with regard to labour with the object that since he has got no policy or programme, he may draw inspiration from them. (Shown.) Here is the programme and policy of the Congress with regard to labour. I shall read it out—

It "is to secure to the industrial workers a decent standard of living, hours of work and conditions of labour in conformity as far as the economic conditions of the country permit with international standards, suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes between the employers and the workmen, protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness, and unemployment and the right of workers to form unions and to strike for the protection of their rights".

I would like to make some suggestions also. My suggestions are that immediately a Labour Enquiry Committee should be formed with wide and liberal terms of reference and until employment can be secured for those unemployed persons a provision should be made for the payment of unemployment allowances to those persons.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mrs. NELLIE SEN GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have some complaints to make about Chittagong. Firstly, I have a complaint that there was no white cloth in Chittagong for widows for months and months and they were obliged to purchase *saris*, remove the borders and then wear them. There were some *saris* in the black-market but not many, but that does not mean that black-marketing had stopped. It simply means that the *saris* were taken, stamped and sold in the market at a higher price—at an uncontrolled rate. I hope Government will see that in future we shall be able to secure white cloth.

Secondly, in Cox's Bazar there are a number of widows who earn their living by weaving but for several months they have not been able to secure even a very small quota of yarn which is their due. I hope this matter may also be quickly seen to.

Even before this terrible flood tube-wells in many places were an absolute necessity and I remember well that the fishermen of South Katali were begging of me to get some tube-wells, because just before the rains their tanks are always dried up and it was impossible for them to get any pure drinking water. I remember also that during the famine period the people of South Katali suffered terribly for want of tube-wells; and for no other reasons than want of drinking water. I think, their health had been badly affected.

From Cox's Bazar to Calcutta it takes 7 days to get a letter while we get a letter from England in 6 days in spite of there being motor service and steamer service. I believe that is not a matter for the Provincial Government, but I hope this Government will press the Central Assembly to see to this matter, as it causes a great deal of inconvenience.

The bamboos of Chittagong in several thanas have been rotting for the last seven years, but I blame the people for not having made any complaint about it. I asked them why they had not made any complaint. They said what was the use of doing so! Although I am a member of some Agricultural Committee, but unfortunately I could not attend its meetings, I must say that I have written twice about this matter but have received no reply. Bamboos rotting in Chittagong in this manner is a very serious matter, because people in Chittagong are becoming very short of something which is of great necessity there.

I would now like to speak about the terrible flood and things which, I feel, have not been properly attended to. I do realise that Government have so much to do in Chittagong that they have to husband a very large part of their resources, but I do say that the people must have more free distribution of relief. A "Statesman" representative flew over Chittagong. His report in most matters is a very good one, but it just shows that one cannot see the terrible destruction that is happening in Chittagong unless one goes straight into the interior. For three days I had been there. First of all it is true that there were miles and miles of water and it is difficult to carry relief there. I went to Rangunia, Satkania and Fatikchhari and other places. On every side I saw miles and miles of water. But if you go to the interior, you will see that the condition there is a thousand times worse. Roads are muddy and slushy with a terrible stench coming from decomposed vegetable matters. All along the banks of the river there were thatched roofs of the houses where the people used to live. In Ranghunia thana, a village named Sharathatta about 2 miles and 20 yards wide has disappeared completely into the river Karnafuli.

In Mominnagar about 5 miles of *pan bur* has been completely ruined meaning a loss of 10 lacs. Near Mirzapur I saw the Ghoom Bhil just a huge sheet of water, banana trees, many of them lying on the river side, some still standing but all dead. On hearing that food was being dropped by aeroplanes I was very glad, but it was not as good as it sounds. In Ranghunia it was dropped and the Circle Officer picked it up and it was given to the retail dealers and much of it was sold instead of being given for free distribution. Tanks were all polluted by the bad water and in many places there was no drinking water whatever. As one went into the interior one saw fallen houses on either side of the muddy lanes, large and small had all suffered the same fate. Houses I had slept and eaten in during my election were no longer standing.

I visited altogether 17 villages. Sometimes one found numbers of people huddled together in one house. In Satkhanja district 70 people in one house had been huddled together for three days without food or able to move out because of the height the water had risen.

Satkhania thana had the same story of miles and miles of water—Gatiyadanga Bhil—which it was difficult to believe had been paddy fields. After travelling by boat for some miles we came along some raised land knee deep. So much sand and silt had been washed down by the water. I know nothing of irrigation but I know that if this sand and silt is not quickly out the water cannot get away and there will be no *aman* crop either. Satkhania also complained of little amount of free distribution. It was given for two days and then again no free distribution for five days.

The Government must not forget what these people had suffered before we even received the news. A telegram sent to me on the 11th reached me on the 14th. To ask these people who have lost their homes, paddy, clothes, all their belongings, even the paddy for their next crop, money and everything they had to buy rice, is impossible. I brought back some of the rice distributed and it is not fit for consumption.

The Government must give free distribution for some time to come to many people and risk some not so needy receiving help. I saw the flood in Satkhania district in 1940 and the village which was burnt down in 1945, but those sights were nothing to the misery, ruin and desolation which this terrible flood has brought.

With all due respect to the many people who flew over Chittagong, I say it is impossible to see the misery, either from a plane, train, boat or motor. One must go inside the villages to fully realise the terrible misery.

I have been reported to have said there were many deaths and I saw people up in trees—both are wrong. I said it was strange there were so few deaths but it was feared there would be many, both of human and cattle, because of epidemics due to cold and lack of food.

Tube-wells are an absolute necessity. They were so before the flood. They are a greater necessity now than ever. Many people are working in these districts but the damage has been so terrible the Government must be prepared to give a great deal of help in the way of building materials, tube-wells, loans for seeds and free distribution to the needy, controlled prices and honest and thorough supervision.

MR. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hardly find it necessary to keep it a secret either to myself or to this House that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has miserably failed to raise any hope before the people by his Budget estimate for the year 1946-47. At the very outset I must say that this Budget estimate betrays total bankruptcy and lack of imagination. I must point out here that this budgetary estimate is nothing but plagiarizing of certain items from the Bengal Government's plan of post-war reconstruction, as was mentioned by my friend Mr. Kundu. It was published in September, 1945. That plan was necessarily bureaucratic in outlook. Therefore, as a corollary the Finance Minister was obliged to keep up that bureaucratic outlook in framing the budget for the year 1946-47.

Sir, the face of the world has undergone a radical change since the world war No. II. This imperialist war has brought suffering, hunger, pestilence and death in its train. But, at the same time, it has revolutionised the ideas of men; it has revolutionised the outlook of men and nations. But in this changing world our diehard and reactionary Council of Ministers remain unchanged just like the biological *Lingula* which in spite of the whole evolutionary process that the earth and the animal world have undergone, has not changed.

Sir, the Finance Minister seems to be elated over the so-called development scheme incorporated in his Budget. But on scrutiny it may be found that the much advertised development scheme is nothing but a decent plea for shielding nepotism and corruption through which the existence of the political party to which he belongs, would be maintained. It is not a

surmise, it is the transparent truth which even the man in the street would realise. It is a known fact that the whole development scheme would be executed into action from the standpoint of communalism—from the standpoint of party aggrandisement at the cost of the public exchequer.

Sir, when I look into the Budget estimate, I find that the bulk of the amount set apart for the so-called development scheme will be expended on "Civil Works". It is then obvious that most of the contracts for construction and erection would go mostly to the kinsmen of and persons attached to the present Council of Ministers.

Now, Sir, I shall deal with certain facts that are mentioned in the statement of the Finance Minister as well as certain figures of the Budget estimate. The Finance Minister has stated that the figure for loss adjustable in the current year is Rs. 2 crores under foodgrains. This point has been discussed by some of the speakers. I also touch about one thing in this connection. It is also stated that this loss was due to purchase of foodgrains at a higher rate and selling the same to the people at a reduced rate. This statement, as my friend Mr. Kundu stated, is as inaccurate as it is misleading. The truth behind this is that foodgrains were sold to the people at a much higher rate at a profit even at the rate of Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per maund in certain places. Government sustained the loss not because of the selling of food-grains at a reduced price but because of the condemned food-grains which were dumped in the Botanical Gardens and elsewhere. Everyone knows that when people were dying in the streets of this city for a morsel, the then Minister of Civil Supplies was busy in hoarding food-grains in godowns only to be dumped in the near future when they would be condemned as unfit for human consumption. I warn this House that the same game is being played over again. The Council of Ministers representing the particular political party who were then a pliant instrument in the hands of the then notorious Governor for bringing about the famine of 1943 by sheer manipulation are still holding the reins of Government in the year 1946. They are guilty of a crime the magnitude of which is unparalleled in the history of the world. They are guilty of massacring 50 lakhs of people of this unfortunate province.

Further, Sir, I find that Government have sustained a loss of Rs. 1½ crores under the boat construction programme. I understand that the contract of this boat construction was given to a favourite of one of the members of the Council of Ministers and that man being emboldened under the protection and patronage of the Ministry, constructed the boats with materials which would not be sold even for the price of the wood with which the boats were constructed. I understand further, as I was informed by my friend Mr. Chatterjee, that the boats are still rotting in a canal near Calcutta.

Sir, we all know that as a result of the pernicious "Denial" policy of the Government, the fishermen and others were completely deprived of their boats which were their only means of livelihood. They would be only too eager to purchase boats at a reasonable price. But may I ask, why they refused to avail themselves of this opportunity? Is it for their reluctance to avail themselves of the only means of their livelihood or for the worthlessness of the boats offered to them?

Sir, this side of the House cannot be a party to the folly of the Government as mentioned in the Grant No. 36-85A Capital Outlay of Provincial Scheme of State Trading. If I take the statement of the Finance Minister in its face value, I must say that in the past the Government have proved themselves most inefficient and corrupt as far as the State trading is concerned. On their own admission they have sustained loss in selling out foodgrains procured by themselves as well as in the boat construction programmes. I have no objection to the State trading provided that it is run on sound principle by bona fide men. But as experience shows every

layer of the present administration has become viciously corrupt beyond any remedy. The less we speak of the existing Civil Supplies Department and its ancillaries, the better. It has been dealt with in detail by the previous speaker, Mr. Kundu and therefore I do not like to deal with this point at length. This department has earned so much notoriety that it should be abolished here and now. It has become a public scandal and its abolition is a public demand.

Now, I shall cite one or two instances from the Budget estimates to show how this Government have indulged in criminal wastage of public money for the benefit of certain individuals.

Sir, in the "Work-Engineering Irrigation Scheme", we find that a sum of Rs. 1,23,137 has been allotted for the re-excavation of the Kharia river in the Mymensingh District. I confess I could not find out any reason whatsoever why of all other vital water-ways of the Mymensingh District, this particular rivulet was chosen. This rivulet is a branch of the Brahmaputra which itself has become shallow and silted and the resuscitation of which is long overdue. Without resuscitating the main stream, the re-excavation of the rivulet is nothing but putting the cart before the horse. One may, therefore, easily suspect that the project has been included in the budget in order to satisfy certain individual or individuals attached to the particular political party.

We further find that a sum of Rs. 74,348-0-0 has been allotted for constructing a low earthen bund round the Dhopa Bil near Astagram in the Mymensingh District. This Bil is the personal property of our Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Muazzamuddin Hossain, Minister in charge of the Revenue and Education Departments. I do not know, Sir, whether he has renounced his title. (A voice from the Government benches: He has). Sir, I have come to learn that as Maulvi Syed Muazzamuddin Hossain contemplates to convert the bil into a fishery for his personal gain, he has prevailed upon his colleagues to sanction the sum for the bund by which he may gain at the cost of the poor people of the surrounding villages. Any item that may be taken up for scrutiny will betray such ugly features that any sensible and well meaning person will simply shudder to think that we are living in a vicious atmosphere under a Government which is unworthy of the name whatsoever and which is inefficient and corrupt.

In conclusion, Sir, I warn the Council of Ministers not to repeat the crime that was perpetrated in this unhappy land in 1943. The country will not tolerate such a thing a second time. The masses have become conscious, they will rise and the criminals will be brought to book before the bar of the people.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the customary practice of general discussion of the Budget and I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting a good Budget before the House. (Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy: This is also customary.)

Sir, it is a deficit Budget, but it has been presented in the House with a brighter and broader outlook for the province. The youngest Finance Minister of Bengal with his usual lovely manners and buoyancy of spirit read out the Budget statement on the floor of the House the other day and gave this House to understand in a very clear and lucid fashion the salient aspects of his Budget and there is no shilly-shallying policy with him. Sir, I am an old member of this House and I can tell this House that in previous statements it was often very difficult for me to understand the very difficult jugglery of Finance Ministers regarding the Budget provisions, but here in this statement I am glad to state on the floor of the House that the youngest Finance Minister of Bengal has put it in such a fashion that even members with average merit will understand the main features of the Bengal Budget. Sir, he is not in office for more than three months. Still it was a credit for him to grasp things from a Government which was in the hands of the

bureaucracy and permanent officials who carried on the administration for more than a year. I congratulate him and thank him over again for his lucid understanding of the Budget provisions. Indeed it is a deficit Budget and the conditions in which the Budgets in previous years were presented by other Finance Ministers in this House are not present now. True that the war conditions are not there and the enemy is not knocking at the gate, famine and disease are not ravaging the province, but yet the country has not recouped and recovered from the last shock. So it is no less difficult with the Finance Minister to frame a Budget in the circumstances. Before this unfortunate country of ours could get full and speedy recovery from the last shock the visitation of nature in the shape of flood appeared the other day in the district of Chittagong and also the scarcity of food though not universal is here and there in certain localised areas. So I respectfully say and submit in this House that considering these circumstances and facts this budget is a great change—change from “nation-saving policy” to “nation-building policy”. It is an achievement for the young Finance Minister of Bengal.

Then I come to the development projects. The development projects will speak for themselves. Certain colleges are to be established for the improvement of medical treatment—one at the Lake side, the conversion of the Campbell Medical School into a college and the conversion of the Mitford Medical school into another college. We are in a position to see within a short reach of time that Bengal will have qualified doctors for treatment and Bengal will get better medical men for the country and for abroad. In these days and from my past experience I can tell the House that many of our country men died at the hands of quacks and without treatment and many qualified men and well-equipped hospitals in the interior mufassal are needed for treatment of famine-stricken people.

There is another provision in the Education Budget for the betterment and up-keep of primary teachers. Sir, during the last hard days these primary teachers could have earned more by joining the Civil Supplies Department and other departments of the Government, but it goes to their credit that they remained loyal and faithful to their duty and served the country with a very paltry sum as their remuneration. Sir, now this provision for the increment of their salary in the Budget is something which must be appreciated by all sections of the House. I heard comments from my honourable friends on the other side on the increment of salary of the poor and low-paid staff of Government and the grant of dearness allowance was objected to very seriously by them. Sir, it is the duty of every businessman or firm or Government or semi-Government office to maintain their establishment and if they want to maintain their establishment they must maintain it with adequate salary. So, Sir, the Government must pay their low-paid staff handsomely for their maintenance, and I appreciate that this Government have increased the dearness allowance and augmented the poor pay that they were getting so long. Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to one fact that instead of taking a long time in revising the scales of pay of these poorly paid people, this ad hoc increment must be converted into a permanent one in a short time.

Sir, I have pointed out certain salient features of the Budget for which I have congratulated the Government, particularly the Finance Minister. Before I resume my seat I shall draw the attention of the Ministry to certain other things. In the Budget statement they have given hope that the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission will be given effect to and for that four lakhs of rupees has been provided in the Budget for the revisional settlement operations of the Sunderbans area. He has also mentioned a number of districts in which the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission should be given the earliest effect to and I find that my district tops the list. (Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmad: Lucky district!)

Sir, this is the very place from where in 1942, the then Revenue Minister, Mr. Banerjee also spoke out like the present Finance Minister that Faridpur would be taken up first. Thereafter we heard certain other Ministers who spoke about the State acquisition of zamindary and that the said work would commence first from Faridpur. Here also is another statement from the Finance Minister. So, Sir, we have been hearing this statement since 1942 but nothing has been done as yet and, I am afraid, nothing will materialise this time also.

Sir, I went through the Red Book and the other Books carefully. I find that provision has been made for revisional settlement operations for liquidating the Permanent Settlement in the Sunderbans area but I do not find any provision made for the acquisition of the zamindaries by the State in other districts where records of rights were already available. Still I hope that acquisition of zamindaries by the State in other districts would be taken up in the near future. I think the Government will not give us any further hoax, and let us hope this State acquisition will be taken up soon. Sir, it is very important in the sense that the cultivator or the actual tiller of the soil must come into direct touch with the Government—there should not be any intermediary. And why? Because very hard days have fallen on the poor people of the province, viz., the middle class and the landless labourers. These are the two classes of people who are very hard hit. But the middle class people are nowadays somehow earning their livelihood by means of service and through other sources. Their pocket is now full through inflation. But these landless labourers, most of whom are Muslims and Scheduled Castes, are loitering and toiling from morning till midnight. But unfortunately, in spite of their hard labour they cannot procure two square meals a day. So if the zamindary system is abolished and the land which is in the possession of the rent receivers is distributed then these landless labourers will have some land, though not sufficient land, to fall back upon to live on. If that is done, there will be betterment of the condition of these poor landless labourers in the near future and there would be no necessity for the Government to provide famine relief, gratuitous relief and test work relief.

Sir, I must confess that the provision made for the Development project is very laudable although that provision is confined to the grant from the Centre. Sir, one thing that strikes me very much in regard to this provision is that one-fourth of this sum is going to be spent in East Bengal and the remaining three-fourths are going to be spent on Development work to be taken up in West Bengal, particularly in the districts of Murshidabad, Nadia, Burdwan and Birbhum. Sir, I do not understand why everything will start from Burdwan as if it is a holy shrine. Sir, under Irrigation the re-excavation and improvement of only one canal in the Dacca district, one canal in the Faridpur district and one canal in the Chittagong district are contemplated to be taken up. But this is a very small affair and a very paltry sum has been provided for this work whereas the major portion of the Development project will be carried out in Western Bengal.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed half a minute more to finish.)

Sir, I also appreciate that owing to the abnormal conditions and circumstances of the country an expansion of the Thana and Reserve Police is necessary, but may I make an enquiry from the Hon'ble Minister as to what Government have done up till now to give effect to the recommendations of the Chowkidari Enquiry Committee? Is there any attempt to improve the rural police? I think there is absolutely no attempt, rather, on the other hand, an economy of 9 lakhs of rupees has been effected by abolishing the Home Guards on whose training a lot of money had been spent. By effecting this economy Government has only deprived the rural Bengal of the trained personnel of the Home Guard Organisation while no

improvement of the rural police has been effected. I therefore ask the Government to look into it and—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up. Please take your seat.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজকে এই বাজেট উপস্থিত করবার জন্য যদি অর্থ মন্ত্রীমহাশয়কে ধন্যবাদ দিতে পারতাম তাহ'লে স্মৃশী হ'তাম। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আমি তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিতে পারছি না। কারণ বাজেটটা পড়ে মন নিতান্ত হতাশায় ভবে উঠেছে। আজকে বাংলার চারিদিকে যে হাহাকাব উঠেছে--বাংলা আবার ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষের সম্মুখীন হয়ে পড়েছে। ১৯৪৩ সালে বাংলার বুক থেকে ৫০ লক্ষ লোক অনাহারে মারা গিয়েছিল, আবার সেই সমস্যা আমাদের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত হয়েছে। কিন্তু এই বাজেটে তার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই--এটা নিতান্ত পরিতাপের বিষয়। এই গভর্ণমেন্ট গোড়া থেকে এই সমস্যাকে এড়িয়ে যাবার জন্য, ধানচাচা দেবার জন্য--চেষ্টা কবে আসছে। আজকের প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ১৯৪৩ সালে সববরাহ বিভাগেব মন্ত্রী ছিলেন--কিন্তু তার থেকে তিনি কিছু শিক্ষালাভ করেছেন বলে মনে হয় না। কারণ এই বছরে বাজেটে দুর্ভিক্ষ দমনেব কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। বাংলায় যে চালের অভাব এটা নূতন কথা নয়। বহুদিন থেকে সকলে জানে বাংলায় ভয়ানক অভাব হবে। কিন্তু আমাদের বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের বাংলা দেশে চাল আদানী করবার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। আমরা মনে হয় তারা জানতেন না কতটা অভাব। তাদের বিপোর্টে (Civil Supply বিভাগেব Director বলেছেন--বাংলায় সাড়ে সাত লক্ষ টন চালের অভাব। তাবপব কিছুদিন পবে দেখতে পেয়েছি--তিনি বিপোর্ট দিলেন বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের মাত্র ৩ লক্ষ ২ হাজার মণেব অভাব হয়েছে। এই পাখ'কে কি বোঝা যায়? তাতে মনে হয় গভর্ণমেন্ট জানে না চালের ঠিক অভাব কত। এবং তাবা তা জানতেও চেষ্টা করেন না। তারপর বাংলাব বুক থেকে চাল চলে গেছে। ত্রিপুরা চেষ্টে, কুচবিহার বাজ্যেব চাল বাংলাব বুকের উপর দিয়ে চলে গেল। কিন্তু এখন ত্রিপুরা অধিবাসীদের ঢাকা, মৈমনসিংহ অধিবাসীদের আজকে খাবার চাল নাই। কেন এমন অবস্থা হয়েছে? এটা কি গভর্ণমেন্টেব দোষ ও অযোগ্যতা নয়? গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি সময়ে সাবধান হতেন তাহলে আব এই অবস্থা হ'ত না। তাবপব বাংলায় চালের জন্য যে ব্যবস্থা কবেছেন, তাতেও আরস্ত হয়েছে চোরাবাজার। অনেক পূর্বেই এ খবর সংবাদপত্রে দেওয়া হয়েছে। কিন্তু সবকাল বললেন যে সংবাদপত্রগুলি চালের দর বাড়িয়ে বলে দেশকে ফেপিয়ে তুলছে। এটা নিতান্ত হাস্য্যাপদ কথা। সংবাদপত্র কি কবে চালের দর বাড়তে পারে? যদি বাজারে চাল থাকে, যদি নূতন চাল বাজারে আসে, তাহ'লে সংবাদপত্র একশো দুশো টাকা মণ লিখেও চালের দর বাড়তে পারে না। বলতে পারেন মহাজনেবা লুকিয়ে বেখেছে, কিন্তু তা হয় নাই। মহাজনদের ঘরে ও চাল নেই। যাবা চোবা কারবার করছে, তারাও চাল মজুত করে বাখতে পারে না--এটা প্রুব সত্য কথা। আর সেই চোবা বাজার সৃষ্টি করেছিল গভর্ণমেন্ট। তাবজন্য মহাজনকে দোষ দিলে চলবে না। সেই চোবাবাজারেব জন্য যদি কেউ দোষী হয় তাহ'লে সে এই বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্ট। সে কথা পবিকাব কবে বলছি। বাংলায় প্রথমে ব্যবস্থা কবেন মফঃস্বলে A, B, C--এই তিনটি বিভাগে--সেই কথা আপনাবা এই Houseএব সকলে জানেন, বাইবেব লোকেও জানে। Mr. Speaker, 'A', বিভাগে যাবা তাবা Tax দেয় না, 'B' বিভাগে যাবা তাবা আট আনা পর্যন্ত Tax দেয়, আর 'C' বিভাগে যাবা তাবা তার উপর Tax দেয়। তাবা ব্যবস্থা কবলেন 'A' বিভাগের জন্য যাদের Tax নেই। কিন্তু যখন 'A' বিভাগের লোকদের চালের অভাব হয়েছে তখন 'B', 'C' বিভাগের লোকেবা চাল পাবে কোথায়? তাই বাধ্য হয়ে তাদের চোবাবাজারেব শরণাপন্ন হতে হয়। মহাজনবা স্বযোগ বুঝে তাদের চাল সববরাহ করে তাদের ঝাঁচিয়ে রেখেছে যাদের চাল নাই তাবা হয়ত না খেয়ে মরত, শুধু তামা খেয়ে বাচতে পারতে। ঢাকা জেলার কথা বলতে পারি--ঢাকা জেলার লোক বিশেষভাবে খুলা, বরিশাল ও Sylhetএর উপর নির্ভর করে থাকে। Sylhet অবশ্য এখন ভিন্ন প্রদেশে। বরিশাল এবং খুলনার চাল ঢাকায় এখনও আসে। বরিশাল ও খুলনা দুটি Surplus area। মহাজনেরা নিজেরা বলছে কি করব, যত টাকা চাল কিনতে নিতে হয় তার চেয়েও বেশী টাকা ঘুষের জন্য নিয়ে বেতে হয়। তারপর লাল পাগড়ীব পকেটেও কিছু গুঁজে দিতে হয়। পথে যতগুলি থানা পড়ে, তাব সব জায়গায় ঘুষ দিতে হয়, তা না হ'লে চাল যথাস্থানে পৌঁছায় না। এই চাল ১০।১১ টাকা মণ খরিদ করে বাজারে নিয়ে আসতে ২৫।৩০ টাকা দর পড়ে। চোরা বাজারেও দরকার পুলিশের সাহায্য। একটা দুষ্টান্ত এখানে উপস্থিত করব--মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয় ও আপনাদের সকলের অবগতির জন্য। আমি যখন মফঃস্বলে গিয়েছিলাম আমি দেখেছি, সেখানে কি স্ববন্দোবস্ত; চোরা কারবার বন্ধ কববার জন্য Govt. Enforcement branch তৈরী করেছেন। আমি দেখেছি সেই Enforcement branchএর লোকেরা, Civil Supply বিভাগের লোকেরা সেখানে একত্রিত হয়ে বন্দোবস্ত করেছে--বাজার প্রতি ৬০০ টাকা Tax আদায় করবার। কোন একটা বাজার থেকে ৬০০ টাকা Tax

আদায় করতে পারলেই, বাস তাদের কাজ হয়ে গেল। মহাজনেরা তখন যথেষ্ট চোরা বাজার করুন তাতে কোন বাধা নাই। পুলিশের Sub-Inspector, Civil Supply Sub-Inspector বা Inspectorএর পকেটে কিছু গুণ্ডে দিলেই হয়ে গেল। এই Civil Supply বিভাগের জন্য তারা ৬ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন। এই ৬ কোটি টাকা দিয়ে তারা চোর পুষছেন। এই ৬ কোটি টাকা দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে বিলি করে দিলে, তারা খেয়ে বাচতে পারত। এই চোরের দল যতদিন থাকবে, ততদিন গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছ থেকে এরা পাচ্ছে এই ছয় কোটি টাকা এবং জনসাধারণের কাছ থেকেও আরও ২০।২৫ কোটি টাকা তারা পাবে। এদের শোষণ থেকে জনসাধারণকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য Government কোন ব্যবস্থা করতে পারেন নাই। এর চেয়ে পবিত্রতাপের বিষয় আব কিছু থাকতে পারে না। এই Civil Supply বিভাগের দুর্নীতি সম্বন্ধে দু-একটা কথা উল্লেখ করব। তখন দেখতে পাবেন, কি রকম দুর্নীতি সেখানে চলেছে। তার একটা হচ্ছে টাকা জেলার আড়াইহাজারী থানায়। পঁচজন মুসলমান ও পঁচজন হিন্দু ভদ্রলোক টাকা districtএর নারায়ণগঞ্জের S. D. O., Civil Supply officer এবং Addl. S. P. সাহেবের কাছে দরখাস্ত দিয়েছিলেন। সেখানকার যারা Stockists তাবা সেখানকার সমস্ত চাল black marketএ বিক্রী করে ফেলেছে। সেই সংবাদ সেখানকার Enforcementএর লোকেরা বাজারে প্রকাশ্যভাবে স্বীকার করেছে। একথা কর্তৃপক্ষকে জানিয়েও কোন রকম ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। সেখানকার Food Committee's Secretary চাল আমদানী করে লোককে বলে থাকেন চাল আসেনি। তারপর তার পেটোয়া লোকদের দিয়ে পচা চাল আমদানী কবে জনসাধারণকে বলে থাকেন এই সব চাল Govt. দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু গুনি--ওদিকে ভাল চাল Black marketএ চলে যায়। দরখাস্তে বহু নাম আছে--নির্মাল চন্দ্র দাসগুপ্ত, বি-এ, আবু সৈয়দ খোন্দকাব, ডাক্তার আবু, সেন, স্বরেন্দ্র চন্দ্র সেনগুপ্ত, সফিরদ্দিন আহম্মদ, বৈকুণ্ঠ দাসগুপ্ত, নীহাররঞ্জন রায়--ইত্যাদি এঁরাই দরখাস্ত দিয়েছিলেন।

তারপর গুনুন, আর একটা দরখাস্ত District Magistrateকে দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাতে লেখা আছে টাকা জেলার এক ভদ্রলোক দরখাস্তে লিখেছেন--

"I have the honour to inform you that on the 24th June at about 1 p.m. 16 bags of rice were removed from the godowns of the wholesale dealers of the locality loaded in 2 bullock carts by a bepari and on the way the goods were seized by the police constables of the Police Patrol posts, but unfortunately they, however, managed to remove the goods elsewhere."

স্বেবল তাই নয় ভাবপর্ব তিনি বলেছেন--

"I further brought to your notice sometime ago that about 500 maunds which has been taken and allotted for rationing to some sub-dealers was black-marketed by the same sub-dealers and which fact was known to one of the officers, named Ahmed Mea, who reported it to the higher authority, but through the intervention and connivance of some higher local officers the matter was hushed up."

তারপরে আছে Stock পরীক্ষা করলে দেখা যাবে, তাতে হয়ত হিসাব দেখান হয় নাই। এক জনের কার্ডে দু'সের লেখা আছে, সেখানে আড়াই সের, তিন সের কিংবা কম দিয়ে Stock যাচিতি রাখা হয়েছে।

গুনুন--আর একখানা চিঠি তিনি লিখেছেন--"তোমার পত্র পেয়েছি।যে অবস্থা..... উপক্রম হয়েছে। সাম্প্রদায়িক বিষ টুকেছে বলে মনে হয়। সেদিন Enforcement branchএর একজন officer এসেছিলেন। তিনি খুব স্বজাতিপ্রীতি দেখিয়েছিলেন। বিশেষভাবে যখন তাকে বলি দুর্নীতির বিষয় তিনি দুজন হিন্দুর বিরুদ্ধে step নিচ্ছেন, কিন্তু ভদ্রপেক্ষা অধিক দোষে দুষ্ট মুসলমানদের বিরুদ্ধে কোন step প্রতিকারের জন্য নিলেন না। তাতে মুসলমানদের মনে অত্যন্ত সাহস বেড়ে গেছে। এই দুর্নীতির প্রশ্রয় দেওয়ার তাদের উৎসাহ বেড়ে গেছে।

এই যে দুর্নীতি এটা যদি দূর কবতে না পারেন তবে পুলিশের জন্য যে অত টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করছেন তাতে আমার মনে হয় দুর্নীতি আরও বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হবে। Govt. যদি সেই দুর্নীতি দমন করতে না পারেন, তাহলে পুলিশ রাখার কি প্রয়োজন? Mr. Speaker, Civil Supply বিভাগে ত এই রকম দুর্নীতি চলেছে। কিন্তু বাজেটের অন্যান্য জায়গা ও এই রকম নৈরাশ্যজনক। প্রথমতঃ যদিও কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেন্ট এই গভর্ণমেন্টকে সাড়ে সাত কোটি টাকা দিয়েছে গঠনমূলক কাজে। কিন্তু তাতে কোন স্ত্রু ও স্বামী পরিকল্পনা নাই। যে টাকা এই ধরনের unproductive schemeএ গভর্ণমেন্ট খরচ করছেন তাতে এদেশের কোন

উপকার হবে বলে মনে হয় না। যেখানে শতকরা দশজন লোক ও শিক্ষিত নয়--সেখানে দেশবাসীর জন্য ব্যয় হচ্ছে জনপ্রতি নয় আনা। তারপর ম্যালেরিয়ায় হাজার হাজার লোক প্রতি বৎসর মরে যায়, যেদেশে কলোরা, বসন্ত, T. B. ঘরে ঘরে হচ্ছে, সেই দেশে Public Health এবং medical দুটো একত্রে দেখছি জনপ্রতি ব্যয় হচ্ছে মাত্র পনের আনা। এটাকে নিতান্তই অব্যবস্থা বলতে হবে। আর্থিক উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণ'-মেন্ট কোন রকম ব্যবস্থাই করেন নাই। কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য যে গামান্য কিছু ব্যবস্থা কবেছেন তাও প্রচুর নয়, তারপর দেখছি কৃষি বিভাগের জন্য পঁচ একক জমির ব্যবস্থা করছেন। তাতে খরচ করবেন--৬৪ হাজার টাকা। এত টাকা খরচ করে যে কি কববেন, জানিনা।

তারপর Electrification Scheme এসব ব্যাপারে আরও টাকা খরচ কববার প্রয়োজনীয়তা ছিল। যাক্ যে কথা নিয়ে আমি আবস্ত করেছিলাম সেই দুভিক্ষের কথা। কাণে সেই কথাটাই আমাদের বারবার মনে হয়। দুভিক্ষ থেকে যদি বাঁচতে হয়,--তবে তাব জন্য আমি কয়েকটি suggestion দিতে চাই। এখন দেশের যা অবস্থা শতকরা কুড়িজন লোকের ঘরে খাবার নাই। তাবপর শতকরা কুড়ি জন লোকের বেশী এই দবে চাল কিনে খেতে পারে না। তারপর যদি ধবে নিই শতকরা ৩৫ জন লোক এই দরে চাল কিনে খেতে পারে-- তাহ'লেও আমরা দেখতে পার কি? আজকের দিনে বাংলা দেশে এমন অনেক লোক রয়েছে যাদের অন্ততঃ শতকরা দশজন নিঃস্ব হয়ে গেছে। তাদের চাকরী গেছে। যাবা যুদ্ধের সময় মিলিটারীতে কাজ কবে কিছু কিছু পেত আজ তাবা বেকার হয়ে পড়েছে। তাবা তাদের পবিবার নিয়ে বিপন্ন হ'য়ে পড়েছে। তাদের dole দিতে হবে। সম্ভায় চাল দিতে হবে এমনও অনেক আছে। এই doleএব জন্য এক কোটি টাকা বানাদ করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু সেটা নিতান্ত নগন্য। বাংলায় এই যে লোক--ঢাকা, ফরিদপুর, ময়মনসিংহ, নেত্রকোণা, কিশোরগঞ্জ, বাঁকুড়া, আমরা দেখছি আজ অভাব সবুত্র রয়েছে। এই কয়েকটি জেলায় এক কোটি ৮৮ লক্ষ লোকের বাস। এতগুলি লোকের মধ্যে যদি শতকরা দশ জনকেও dole দিতে হয় তাহ'লে ১৮ লক্ষ ৮৩ হাজার ৭০০ লোককে dole দিতে হবে। আর যদি শতকরা পঁচিশ জন লোককে অল্প দামে চাল দিতে হয়, তাহ'লে এদের জন্য চাল দিতে হবে ৮৯,৪৬,৮৬২ মণ। সেজন্য গভর্ণ'-মেন্টের ব্যয় হবে অনুমান আট কোটি টাকা। বাংলাকে যদি বাঁচাতে হয় তাহ'লে এই আট কোটি টাকার ব্যবস্থা করা দবকার। কিন্তু গভর্ণ'-মেন্ট ব্যবস্থা করেছেন এক কোটি নয় লক্ষ ৫১ হাজার টাকা।

Mr. SPEAKER: You have got two minutes more.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Please give me five minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I cannot. You have already exceeded your time. I can give you half a minute more.

Mr. GANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: পুলিশ ও Civil Supply বিভাগে যে টাকা ধবা হয়েছে তা কমিয়ে দিন। আর air conditioning এর ব্যবস্থা তুলে দিন। এই দেশের জনসাধারণ, হিন্দু মুসলমান যখন না পেয়ে মরে যাচ্ছে তখন তাদের এই বিলাসিতা ত্যাগ করে এই সমস্ত ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। অবিলম্বে এই ব্যবস্থা না করলে দেশের লোক সব না বেঁচে মরে যাবে।

(The member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. C. W. MILES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before dealing with the Budget as so clearly outlined by the Hon'ble Minister, I would like to refer to its reception in the Press.

The *Statesman* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* featured the boldest headlines of Bengal's Rs. 10 crore deficit, and it seems to me, Sir, that the daily Press throughout the English speaking world is possessed of a devil, inasmuch as it invariably features the worst in human nature and relegates the good things of life and anything constructive and educational to the smallest of small print, if it condescends to print it at all. One would have thought in this case that the headlines should have been to the effect that the Bengal Government was going forward to spend a very large sum of money on new and beneficial ventures.

The deficit is due to the war, and to the famine, and if the expenditure on extraordinary charges and famine relief were eliminated, the Budget would be a surplus one. The legacy of the war is the more difficult to bear in a period of shrinking revenue and mounting expenditure. During the

war years there was certainly mounting expenditure, but there was also expanding revenue which always contrived to exceed expectations. Revenue is now shrinking and our revenue estimates are more likely to be over-estimates than under-estimates. Revenue from excise and entertainment taxes may well decline more rapidly than has been anticipated although the Betting Tax next cold weather will probably be as large or larger than in previous years. There is no doubt that in the future a major source of Provincial revenue will be the Sales Tax provided the Government is prepared to enforce it. We consider, however, that the yield from the Sales Tax could be considerably increased if evasion was checked and we would commend to the attention of the Hon'ble Minister the desirability of a full enquiry into the evasion of Sales Tax and the desirability of levying the tax at the manufacturing and importing stage instead of at the retail stage. When comparing the efficiency of the Excise Department of the Central Government with the Bengal collecting system of the Sales Tax, it is obvious that the Centre collects proportionately more of its dues than the Provincial Government.

It is regrettable that the Government proposes to increase the Petrol Tax from 3 annas to 8½ annas per gallon. The petrol tax at 3 annas is at present higher than in any other province and by increasing it to 8½ annas it will be four times higher than the highest rate in any other province. Government should think twice before increasing this additional tax and we in this party consider that an increase of 5½ annas—following upon the doubling of the tax in 1945—is excessive. It should be remembered that the tax was levied in 1941 for the specific purpose of furthering road construction, and it was never intended that it should be used for the general purpose of meeting revenue deficits. Petrol is not a luxury and it is one of the sinews of development in this Province. We can afford to pay Rs. 2 for our own private cars but that is not the country's transport factor. I will not dwell on this point as it will be the subject, I know, of great criticism when the measure comes before the House.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister is rightly examining all further possibilities of increasing the Province's resources. We commend to his attention the possibility of a tax on advertisements and also on true luxury articles. The yield from Stamp duty should automatically increase as commercial houses in this province adopt the system of only paying dividends to registered shareholders, which ensures that a large number of transfers are stamped and registered. We would also like the Government to go further and insist on a stamp duty on Share Contract Notes.

There is a great need for an overhaul in administrative expenditure. I do not say you will achieve much retrenchment but there should be an overhaul to eliminate inefficiency. Items such as the loss of Rs. 2 crores on the sale of subsidized food to the public should not appear in the Provincial Budget. To the best of my knowledge it was never the intention to subsidize food, and we would like to see from the Civil Supplies Department some detailed costings of how their rice and wheat transactions are panning out. There is nothing in the Budget to help us, and the Civil Supplies Department should, if it was run on commercial lines, be able to give the public invaluable statistical information and sources of loss should become apparent at short-notice and adequate correctives applied.

The loss of Rs. 1½ crores on Boat Construction programme seems to me to smell, and we of this Party would like to see those responsible face up to a searching enquiry in regard to what is obviously a matter of exceedingly poor judgment and gross mishandling.

The need for a strict examination of the expenditure of the Civil Supplies Department is illustrated by the fact that apart from the loss of Rs. 3½ crores, expenditure on establishment and contingencies amounts to no less than Rs. 6 crores and we feel that an explanation should be forthcoming for the expenditure of such very large amounts. I do not want to be too hard on

the Civil Supplies Department but I do not think that they spoil their own case by not supplying us with adequate information.

One of the first tasks of the Ministry, as I have said, should be an over-haul of the Civil Supplies Department: the department has become top heavy and, we fear, not free from graft.

A major problem facing the Ministry and indeed of India and many other countries, is that of inflation, and it is regrettable that this problem finds only passing reference in the Budget speech.

It should be one of the principal objects of the Ministry to stabilise the cost of living to the best of its ability by increasing productive capacity, which means that Labour has got to be urged to work if it has to get a fair price for its outturn. If prices of essential commodities are not strictly controlled in the meantime there will be no limit to the rising spiral of wages and prices. What is more, the economy of the province would be completely dislocated by strikes and all development will be frustrated.

There are only two ways of fighting inflation effectively:—(1) by increasing productive capacity and the supply of essential commodities, leading to a reduction in prices, and (2) by the strict control of prices in the interim period. The United States has learnt this. They took it off and put it back again because productive capacity was not keeping pace with potential consumption.

An encouraging feature of the Budget is the emphasis on development and the large sum of Rs. 12 crores which it is proposed to spend on development schemes. We wish the Ministry well in this great venture and we trust that each venture will receive the personal attention of each Minister-in-charge by way of visits and enquiries, and criticisms. We have one criticism to make inasmuch as the Five Year Plan put up under Section 93 Administration is no plan at all. It is merely a collection of departmental schemes which have not been fitted together into a plan with definite targets. As yet these defects have not been remedied by the Ministry, as the Budget estimates only give us lists of departmental schemes. A friend of mine here suggested that I might quote the Russian Five-Year Plan as an example to this Ministry, but having been associated with the Russians throughout the War and having Polish and Estonian friends I think there would be very loud protests from the people of this province and in fact, from the whole of India, if Soviet methods were employed here.

Reverting to the Development programme, we agree that the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee are the right one inasmuch as that administrative machines should be created capable of carrying out large scale developments. Furthermore, public interest should be aroused in the furtherance of these projects and it would then be a matter of pride for this province to say what we are doing. We expect from the Ministry a declaration of what is their target and how they expect to achieve it.

In conclusion, Sir, on behalf of this Party I would like to wish this present Ministry good luck during its period of office. And we extend our congratulations to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and to those others who are responsible for the clarity of the Budget speech, which we think is one of the clearest expositions that has been made for some considerable time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House was to sit today from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with an interval of 15 minutes for prayer. The interval of 15 minutes for prayer has been saved with the consent of Maulana Sahibs in this House. So we rise 15 minutes earlier today.

The House stands adjourned till 3-30 p.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 5-48 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 31st July, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled
under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 31st July, 1946, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 3 Hon'ble Ministers and 201 members.

Late sitting of the Assembly.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the transaction of business in this House begins today, I would bring to your notice that the House was to have sat at 3-30 p.m. today. Now it is 3-45 p.m. It is encroachment on our rights. During my whole career as a member of the Legislative Assembly we have found, Sir, that the House never sat one second late. Yesterday also we sat late and we are again sitting late to-day by 15 minutes. I repeat, Sir, it is encroachment on our rights and I do not think this thing can be tolerated.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is due to the unfortunate arrangement between the Assembly and the Council. Unfortunately, we have not got a separate house for the Legislative Council and therefore the Legislative Council also sits in this very house. Yesterday and today the Legislative Council sat probably beyond the time expected by the Assembly and that is the cause of the delay in commencing our sitting today and yesterday. I shall see that the members of this House are not in any way prejudiced by this delay, because the sitting of the Assembly may be extended to cover the loss due to prolonged sitting of the Council.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, we must be in possession of the House half-an-hour before the House sits because it is impossible for us to go through the questions and be ready to put supplementary questions. Sir, today we have got a very important question and it is only just now that we have received a copy of the question and if we are to put supplementary questions in relation to this question we shall have to look to the Report itself, namely, the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee Report, and be ready for it. The practice is that we shall be in possession of the House and we shall be supplied with questions half an hour before the House meets. Sir, during the last 5 or 6 days this practice has not been followed. During the last 9 years the Council used to sit in this House according to this arrangement and such things have never happened.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It has happened once or twice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We should be in occupation of this House half-an-hour before the House sits in order to enable us to be ready for supplementary questions. That is our privilege and that is our demand. I think Mr. Speaker will make arrangements so that we may be in possession of the House half-an-hour before the House sits.

Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, during the month of Ramzan the House generally met in the morning. Similar arrangements may also be made this time because, Sir, at the fag end of the day it becomes very difficult for people who observe *Ramzan* to carry on. I would therefore make a request on behalf of the Mussalman members of the House that you will so arrange that we may sit in the morning, say, at about 8-45 a.m. or 9 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I realise the difficulties of Mr. Datta and of Mr. Aulad Hossain. If Mr. Datta thinks that they are not fully prepared for putting

supplementary questions to the answer that has been given, this question may be held over. So far as Mr. Aulad Hossain's request is concerned, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition and leaders of other groups may consult among themselves and if they come to an arrangement for morning sitting, I shall have no objection.

Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one point more. I sent some questions one month ago but I have got no reply yet. It appears that questions put by European members are being answered systematically every day.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: And the European Benches are empty!

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope, Government will try to reply to questions put by Indian members also.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, there is no discrimination in the matter of expeditiously sending replies. It may be a matter of mere coincidence that one or two questions put by European members come up before the House. Sir, I can assure the House that we are trying to deal with questions as expeditiously as possible and there is not the least discrimination in sending our replies.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We are receiving questions by dribblets. That is our complaint.

Mr. CANENDRA CHANDRA BHATTACHARJEE: I sent a question on the 24th of June last but still I have got no replies. I notice questions put by European members are being answered. This procedure they have taken in order to please European members for otherwise they will lose their *guddi*.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, do you want that the question should be held over.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well.

Renunciation of titles.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: We read a news item in the newspapers that in pursuance of the Muslim League Council decision you have renounced the title of "Khan Bahadurship". Is it a fact, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, this is a fact.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: While we welcome the decision that you should renounce titles conferred by the British Government I would personally have liked to think that you will not be influenced by the Party decision of the Muslim League.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a personal matter. You know that I belong to a political organisation, but I think I have made it clear before that so far as my office here is concerned I shall never allow any party influence to prejudice my judgment in this House (Hear, hear).

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: May I point out that your predecessor in office was an active member of a particular political organisation and he also belonged to the Parliamentary Party of the Congress and no such question was ever raised either in this House or outside?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Why did you not raise it?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, arising out of personal explanations given by certain members opposite renouncing their titles,

will you be pleased to ascertain and inform this House if it is a fact that they are following this decision up by resignation of their office under the Crown?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not my look-out.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the honourable members volunteer a statement to that effect?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We are not to be guided by the wishful thinking of my friend, Mr. Dutt-Mazumdar. I may also tell him that we are not holding any office under the British Crown.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: We would welcome this statement of my honourable friend if he would agree to declare this House as a Sovereign body. We, Sir, take it that imitation is the best form of flattery and we have therefore welcomed the renunciation of titles although belated.

Message.

Secretary then read the following message from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

The concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly be asked to the Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1945, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 5th March, 1945.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me first opportunity to make my observation on the Budget which has been presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister before this House. It is customary to congratulate the Finance Minister partly for his endeavours and partly for the hours spent on the make-up to conceal the ugly features of the Budget and to present it in a form which may please the Legislature. Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister on his efforts, but I may be permitted to point out that if the rouge and powder is rubbed off and the lip-stick is wiped out of the face of the Budget, the Budget will present a sight which will not warrant any appreciation from anybody in this House.

Sir, we have got a Budget where the expenditure has been estimated to be Rs. 52½ crores out of which Rs. 10 crores has been granted by the Government of India for unproductive nation-building schemes. The Budget still leaves a deficit of Rs. 10½ crores which the Finance Minister seeks to meet from the closing balance of the last year and by the issue of Treasury Bills during the current year to the extent of Rs. 5 crores. If you see the whole Budget you will find that the Revenue income under all Budget heads have gone down, and if at the end of the year we do not realise the estimated amount, I fear our losses and deficits would be much more than have been anticipated in the Budget Estimates. Sir, I also find that due consideration and attention has not been paid by the Finance Minister in the preparation of the Budget because I am not sure whether the expenditure has been inflated or the income has been inflated. The Finance Minister says in his Budget speech that he will lose Rs. 10 lakhs under the head of income from professional taxes, but I find that he has made adequate arrangement and sufficient provision for the collection of this tax of Rs. 10 lakhs. May I ask the Finance Minister if this 10 lakhs of rupees are not to be realised, and if this professional tax has been abolished then why does he make arrangement for the collection of this amount. The collection charge of this sum is near about Rs. 1 lakh. This lakh of rupees will surely be a saving at the end of the year and perhaps has been shown to increase the loss. This shows, Sir, that adequate attention has not been paid during the preparation of the Budget by the Finance Minister and his services have been utilised for the purpose of presentation only.

Secondly, Sir, to me who is accustomed to the Budget of the Calcutta Corporation a deficit or surplus budget means nothing, for there is an art of preparing the budget at your will. You can make budget surplus or deficit as you like. If you want a surplus budget you can sell your existing lands or show them for sale and stop the execution of the nation-building programme. If you want to put in a deficit budget you may put all sorts of schemes which will never be executed and show all kinds of expenditure as already shown and at the end of the year come forward and say that for unavoidable circumstances which were beyond your control you could not execute the programme. You may as well say that you could not get technical experts and materials and this surplus in the closing balance can be utilised as opening balance next year. Previously due to continuation of the War we used to hear that materials were not available, and now on the termination of the War they would perhaps say that there are difficulties in obtaining services of technical experts.

It is immaterial whether the Budget is surplus or deficit. What is material is that something tangible is really done for the people of Bengal. That is the only question we want to discuss today.

Sir, one redeeming feature of the Budget is that we have no fresh taxation during the current year, except a little enhancement of the tax on petrol. But, whether there is any new taxation or not, are we not already groaning under taxes which have already been levied on us? There is the Sales Tax which was imposed on us at a time when we were told that conditions were such that levying of a tax was necessary so that they could carry the administration during the War. Later on we were again told that this tax was meant for the War period only. But now that the War is over, they say that it is a revenue measure because we cannot go without it. Sir, I am thankful to the Hon'ble Minister—but perhaps he knows not—that the Sales Tax on fruits has been removed and abolished. For this I am thankful to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the other Hon'ble Ministers who were directly concerned with it. But, Sir, the tax on shoes which was supposed to have been abolished has not been removed as yet. Shoes are a necessity of life to the poorer people who find it very difficult to pay tax on shoes. Besides, Sir, shoes come to Bengal from outside the province, especially, the United Provinces and the Punjab. The manufacturers here find it difficult to compete with the shoes which are sent by outside provinces because the wholesale buyers have to pay Sales Tax on them whereas wholesale buyers have not to pay any Sales Tax on shoes imported from other Provinces. The result is that in Bengal the manufacturers have to sell their articles at higher prices than the manufacturers in other provinces.

Now, Sir, turning to Sales Tax I find that the income therefrom has been estimated at Rs. 3 crores, but for the loose system which prevails in the department the trade has to pay much more than Rs. 3 crores whereas the Government get only Rs. 3 crores. Even if the net demand of Government is Rs. 3 crores, I think, after there has been a thorough overhaul of the department, Government will get more money and the trade will have to pay less than what they are paying today. It is time therefore that Government should appoint some sort of a Committee of Experts who will not only thoroughly overhaul the Departments of Civil Supplies and Sales Tax but should bring the whole of the Departments in such a tune that they may adopt the modern system of quick work and less labour. By that, I think, the efficiency of the departments could be improved and result in more work with lesser staff. Otherwise every year you will find that your income has gone down while your expenditure will remain the same and every year you will be faced with a deficit to the extent of Rs. 10 to 15 crores. You will not always get subvention from the Government of India as you have been getting in the past and with the changing conditions and political situation you will not be able to ask for any.

Sir, I will not refer to the country boat scandal wherein we have lost about Rs. 1½ crores. I think that these leaking boats were made of wood which expands in heat and contracts in cold water. These are the boats which have been constructed by the Government through their contractors and which are now not saleable. The province has suffered a loss of about a crore and a half of rupees.

Similarly, Sir, with regard to the amount which has been spent on rehabilitation I can say that if only we could reap the benefit of even 50 per cent. of the amount which Government is spending every year on rehabilitation, the condition of the people in Bengal would have been much different from what it is today. Unfortunately, Sir, I was a member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee and I found that nothing was done for Calcutta, for those dwellers of *bustees* whose only want was to be supplied with raw materials at cost prices. These *bustee* dwellers make *biris*, cane baskets and *guli sutas*. These people wanted raw materials at cost prices so that they may make a living thereon, but Government did not think it proper to supply these people with raw materials so they were gradually added to the number of destitutes. Sir, I find that nothing has been done in the whole of the budget for those people who were directly responsible for the return of the Muslim members to this House, and indirectly for the Muslim Ministry.

Sir, I also find that nothing has been done for the children of the poor parents who come to Calcutta to get education in the college. No hostel has been constructed for those thousands and thousands of students who are not finding any place to live in. The cost of living in hotels and boarding houses is prohibitive and there has been a cry that these boys should be provided with hostels somewhere in the heart of the city nearabout the colleges. There is a big plot of land in Baithakkhana Road and the attention of the Ministry has been drawn to it. The whole land belongs to the Government. If some money had been provided in the budget for the construction of a hostel, it would have given some relief to those poor students who cannot find sufficient money to live in Calcutta and prosecute their studies.

Sir, I also find that while the Government was anxious to do something for the people in other parts of the province and have put up some schemes which, God alone knows, will ever be completed, nothing has been done for Calcutta, the revenue producing city. It would have been worthwhile if Government had spent some money for the construction of additional blocks in the Small Causes Court, Calcutta. There the litigants and complainants have to crowd the room and some days when there is a holiday in between you will find that the crowd and the number of people in one room is more than those who were hoarded in the Black Hole. This is a crying need of the people of Calcutta and attention to this matter, in fact, has been drawn several times, but the Government have done nothing towards this end. This is a revenue-producing department. If some money had been spent so that litigants could stand in the room, they would have appreciated it and cases could be easily disposed of. I think on account of this paucity of space, we are losing much money resulting in more adjournment, revisions and appeals. The same is the case with the Calcutta Police Court. There is no space for the litigants to stand or take shelter during the monsoon and cases are adjourned for want of presence of parties.

Sir, I find that a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been provided for air-conditioning the Writers' Buildings. Our Ministers have been brought up in villages. If they could not frame a better budget in a congenial atmosphere in which they were brought up and to which they are accustomed, how would they be able to frame a better budget for the province by sitting in air-conditioned room with the brain frozen?

Sir, I would now refer to one very important matter where the Provincial revenue is unnecessarily being wasted. We have got a Muhammadan Burial Board for which a sum of Rs. 3,500 has been provided in the Budget.

This Board is supposed to look after the burial grounds for the Muslims. This sum of Rs. 3,500 represents the salaries of the Secretary and a *chaprashi*. What improvement can be effected to the Muslim burial grounds with this paltry sum of Rs. 3,500 which barely meets the salaries of the Secretary and the peon? I think this Board should be abolished or ample money should be provided so that this Board may make some changes and improvements in the burial grounds. All the burial grounds need nearly about Rs. 3 lakhs for improvement and if no money is provided, it is no use to keep this Board and this money can be better utilised in other works.

Sir, I feel that if the Ministry, instead of giving us a number of programmes, had taken up one programme and given assurance to this House that they would see that this particular programme was completed during the year, that would have been one of the greatest achievements of the Ministry. We are overwhelmed with schemes and we know that those schemes will never be completed.

The Ministry should go thoroughly into the question of overhaul of the whole system of administration for bribery and corruption are rampant in all departments of Government. We know that if these 52½ crores of rupees are spent, we will not get value for the money that will be spent even 50 per cent. of it. So, it is no use sanctioning Rs. 52½ crores when we know that with the present staff, contractors and experts majority of whom are not only incompetent but corrupt we will not get value for our money. It is better that Government should come forward with some assurance to remedy this outstanding defect.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, as I was listening to the speeches of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali and also the members sitting opposite, I was reminded of legend Narcissus who had had fallen in love with himself. In his Budget speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister has done nothing else but like the Greek repeatedly singing his own praise and the members who have spoken from that side have been continuing in the same tune. But, Sir, if you do not look with jaundiced eyes, you will find that this is perhaps the most wasteful budget, the most uneconomic budget, the most alarming budget that has ever been presented to this House, for, Sir, what are the main features of the budget? The main feature of this budget is that there is a programme—a development programme, as the Finance Minister calls it—a programme for the development of certain departments funds for which have been provided for not out of the ordinary revenues of the province but out of the subvention granted by the Central Government the powers of which the Ministers and their followers opposite are always trying to whittle down. But I do not know if this can be called a development programme. On going through the development programme I find that schemes have been taken out and put in surreptitiously in this year's budget out of the so-called reconstruction plan, the draft plan as it was said, the plan drawn up by the I.C.S. officers, the plan which has been characterised by the European members also as no plan. Well, Sir, this is a conglomeration of schemes that have been drawn up by the departmental officers. For instance, a certain scheme provides for 56 lakhs to be spread over 5 years, but, Sir, Ministers have taken out only some portion of the scheme and have provided, say, 4 or 5 lakhs for that scheme and I do not know whether they either seriously mean that that scheme is going to be finished at all or whether that scheme will be seriously taken up at all.

Sir, when the new constitution came into operation, the Bengal Government started fairly well. If I remember aright, there was surplus of Rs. 1,17 lakhs that year, but it did not take more than 2 years for the Bengal Government to consume up that surplus. Well, Sir, I quote from the speech of the then Finance Minister who is now our Chief Minister. He said in his Budget speech in 1940-41: "It will be obvious from the accounts

of 1938-39 that the opulence which marked the opening year of Provincial Autonomy had disappeared at the close of the second year". Then, Sir, the year 1939-40 had a small surplus, but from 1940-41 we have had a series of deficits which are ever increasing in volume and I do not know if things continue in this manner, how the Bengal Government will find finance to meet the deficit. (Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: The same about the Calcutta Corporation.) I know there will be such a remark from that side of the House. First set your own house in order and then criticize the Calcutta Corporation. It is remarkable that the Bengal Government have failed to pay their dues to the Calcutta Corporation.

Then, Sir, when the War came, it was no fault of Bengal that she lay close to the War zone. This was a War which should have been financed not by the Bengal Government, not by the India Government, but by the British Government because this War was fought for the continuation of the imperial hold on India. But it was not the British Government who financed the money but the India Government was asked to find out money to finance this War. India Government asked the Bengal Government to find out money by taxing the poor people of this province who incidentally happened to live near the War zone. I find from the speech of the then Finance Minister Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee that: "By far the most serious effect of the War on the provincial budget however relates to the expenditure on A.R.P. and kindred emergency measures booked under the head "Extraordinary Charges in India"..... The expenditure amounted to Rs. 3 lakhs in 1939-40 and 7 lakhs in 1940-41 and the Central Government agreed to meet these charges in their entirety...." "Early this year (1942) however, it became evident that expenditure on A.R.P. was likely to reach a very much higher figure and the Centre advised the Provinces that the growing scale of expenditure on A.R.P. measures combined with a deterioration in the financial position of the Central as compared with that of the Provinces no longer justified the promised measure of liberality and the Centre found itself compelled to call on the Provinces to shoulder the major portion of defence measures falling within the provincial field." I do not know how this measure can in any sense come within the provincial field. But, Sir, there is no question of logic or reason. Government of Bengal had to find money and subsequently had to face a huge deficit.

Then came the famine. I will not repeat here the sordid stories of corruption, stark inefficiency and rank bungling of the Government of Bengal, but suffice it to say that the financial position of Bengal has been brought to such a deplorable state of affairs that Bengal has been sinking deeper and deeper ever since and has not been able to start on a path of recovery. The Budget deficit began to reach very great heights from 1943-44. In 1943-44 there was a deficit of 303 lakhs. In 1944-45 there was a deficit of 470 lakhs and the next year the deficit went up to 745 lakhs and so on and so on. This year we are faced with a budget deficit of Rs. 10 crores. Sir, when I listened to the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister I expected that the Finance Minister would give us some details of constructive schemes that would put Bengal in a better financial position, but I must confess that I was sadly disappointed. The Finance Minister has simply squandered away money on certain schemes which, in my opinion, are mere copies of most unworthy schemes drawn up by the most reactionary officers of the Bengal Government. Well, Sir, this is the development position.

Sir, I have got a chart showing what percentage of development expenditure goes to different nation-building departments. From that chart you will find that the total revenue expenditure on development programme amounts to Rs. 10 crores and 45 lakhs of which General Administration and Police get something insignificant. Education gets 5 per cent. and Public Health gets 7 per cent. Agriculture—the most vital subject in our country—gets only 3.9 per cent. Co-operation gets 0.42 per cent. Perhaps I shall

be correct in saying that the present Ministry has allotted such an insignificant sum to Co-operation because they do not want co-operation either from any side of the House or from the people of Bengal—

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: We welcome co-operation, but we do not want to pay for it.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Then, Sir, Industries get only 3.20 *per cent.* and Communications and Works gets 36.50 *per cent.* But what does this mean, after all? I would give a concrete instance. Sometime ago Government granted certain sums of money to certain hospitals, notably Sadar and Subdivisional hospitals. There they constructed large blocks for accommodating doctors and nurses and so on and so forth. Now the blocks are lying empty and there are no doctors and no nurses in those blocks. I apprehend that the expenditure on these development programmes will also follow the same path. Thus Government might launch upon nation-building projects, but sometime after for want of proper arrangements, it would not be possible to maintain them in order. That is the nature of the development programme. If you go through different items of the Budget you will find that money has simply been thrown away and squandered away. Sometime ago the Finance Member of the Government of India had a gibe at the Government of Bengal when he said that he did not care for any Government which could not maintain themselves. Government of Bengal could not give them any fitting reply. Government of Bengal were bound by all sense of justice to give them a plain "no" but instead they went on increasing taxes after taxes and crushing the people of Bengal. But now that such measures have reached the limit the Finance Minister comes and says "I have tried to tap all sources of provincial revenues and there is hardly any source of provincial revenues that can be tapped." So they will continue to depend on the subsidies from the Central Government. This Government is in the habit of receiving doles from the Centre, but, Sir, there is no certainty that these subventions will be continued year to year. Bengal Government is not looking ahead, and it is dangerous to plan for Bengal while solely depending on the subventions from the Centre.

Sir, if there is to be any planning, you have to plan for a number of years and not for one year only. There is an absolute lack of foresight so far as the Budget of the Bengal Government is concerned. If you have to plan something, you must find out the money for carrying out that plan and decide how much you are going to spend this year, how much the next year and how much the third year and so on. This is the elementary principle of budgeting which the Hon'ble Minister must not forget. The Finance Minister has not done anything of the sort, I say, Sir, that this Government can never be serious to bring these projects into operation and I say with confidence that these plans can never succeed. Only they will entail a huge expenditure of money and a colossal debt.

Sir, it is said that the function of the Opposition is to oppose everything, propose nothing, and to drive away the Ministry. Sir, the difference of opinion between the present Ministry and ourselves is so fundamental that we have to oppose what the Ministry propose, because what they propose are not for the welfare of the people of this Province, but for distribution of patronage among their supporters who are thriving at the cost of the people, no matter whether they are Hindus or Muslims or Sikhs or Christians or Parsees. But, Sir, I would make a few proposals for what they are worth and if the Ministry care to listen to my proposals, they will be able to find at least some concrete suggestions that will, in my opinion, help the people of Bengal. My first suggestion is the abolition, so far as Bengal is concerned, of all taxes that are crushing the people of Bengal. I say abolish all taxes that are hitting the common man, hitting the poor peasant, hitting the labourer and the agriculturist. If you look at the comparative yield of provincial taxes in the first and last years of

war, you will find that in the first year the taxes imposed in Bengal yielded something in the neighbourhood of 903 lakhs and in the last year of the war these taxes went up to 24,92 lakhs. This means that taxes are being received not from the rich but from the poor cultivators and indigenous labourers. My first proposal would be the abolition of such taxes. My second proposal would be that you must find out a master plan and think out what are your first principles, then you can work out subsidiary plans. I would request the Ministry not to accept through the backdoor those schemes that have been drawn up by the I.C.S., but to first settle their objective and then chalk out, in co-operation with the members of the Opposition a master plan which will be of real service to the people of Bengal. My third proposal is about financing. Well, if you mean business, if the statement of the Chief Minister quoted by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, at the end of his Budget speech, is not meant to mislead us, you must not tax the poor people for getting money. You must first levy taxes on the people who have thrived by trafficking in death and starvation during those dark days of famine. Thus if you tap this source of excess profits, you can get 150 crores. Besides this 150 crores, you can get another 25 crores from banks and another 25 crores from other sources. In this way if you can build up a fund of 200 crores, you will not have to depend on the Central Government. You can then proceed with your post-war reconstruction in a fashion by which you can render real service to the people.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall discuss the Budget not in a mood of simply attacking it but with reference to the life of the people in Bengal and the prevailing situation in Bengal today. Thanks to a foreign, soulless and corrupt Government which was here during the war, we find that thousands and thousands of persons have been made landless and turned into agricultural labourers. Their debts have mounted up to—I do not know the exact figure but we can only imagine. They have become the easy victims of epidemics, and their village is today in the grip of those Cabinet makers who prosper by the famine—the zamindars, profiteers and other scum of society. The workers who are always overworked and underfed are today living with their families in foul conditions without the Government taking any initiative for doing anything to better their present condition. On top of that the workers face unemployment today as never before. The middle class, we find, are in the same condition and witness the break up of their own homes. They also face unemployment on an unprecedented scale. And that is why the traditional meek clerks of yesterday are being turned into revolutionaries. The question before the present Ministry therefore, as before all of us, is how to prevent this major disaster which is fast overtaking our country, the fair province of Bengal. There is now a Ministry in power with 2,76,000 Muslim votes and it is unprecedented. The ordinary Muslim voted into power the present Ministry with faith and hope and trust but the budget has clearly the stamp of the Civil Service on it,—a corrupt, inefficient and callous bureaucracy. It is easy enough to discard titles and honours as was done yesterday conferred on certain members by the British Government. But one must learn to tear up and scatter to the winds the bureaucratic policy which is being followed from year to year. The budget has two aspects. The first is the finding of funds and the second is how best to dispose of this fund. Notwithstanding the grant of the Central Government we find a deficit of ten crores and it is the misfortune of Bengal that it has to live on subsidies from outside. Money must be found and it is useless lamenting over the loss from the excise tax. You cannot build the nation by making more drunkards nor will taxes on petrol bring us sufficient funds. The Council of Ministers must have the imagination and, more so, the courage to act as people's Ministers and tap the vital resources for funds. First, abolish the

zamindari system, the Permanent Settlement, under which the parasitic zamindars are collecting twenty crores of rupees a year from the peasants—this sum is collected legally and I do not know how much more they collect illegally. And thus we find the State today losing at least ten crores even if the rent is reduced. My second point is “nationalise the jute industry”. What earthly reason is there that the jute industry should remain in the hands of European or any other private owners. Get it from them and see that our starving peasants in the field who in breast-deep water, day after day toil for twelve hours a day for jute and the hundreds of thousands of workers in the factories get fair wages and a fair living. Thirdly let them nationalise coal and other public utility service industries and funds will be available. I urge them to look at Europe where we find a new resurgence in Czechoslovakia, in France and in other countries. Under Communist and other coalition governments they will find the first item in the nation-building programme is the nationalisation of the key industries. I believe the Finance Minister is a rich zamindar. He should know where the money lies and where to tap the resources. Lastly it is amazing that there is not a word of protest or condemnation by the Bengal Government against the Government of India's vicious policy of returning the excess profits tax to the owners and industrialists. We know how the industrialists and the owners made this excess profits. There is no moral, social or economic justification for returning this money. My appeal to the Ministers would be to get away from the traditional outlook. Times are now extraordinary and extraordinary measures should be taken. Relegate to the scrap-heap the plan of the bureaucratic Government, the I.C.S.-ridden Government which has given the Ministry this budget. A European member of this House when talking on the budget yesterday directed the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the question of sales tax for funds. I say, confiscate European industries, confiscate private industries and tax the rich and thereby you will get money. There is no need to tax the poor or lay hands on the sales tax. Even if the Islamic laws of justice, jurisprudence and economy are to be followed, the rich must be taxed and they must part with their money.

Now, coming to the expenditure side of the budget, I find it is a welcome budget to the contractors because there is a huge building programme. To mention a few items of wasteful expenditure the Secretariat management will require Rs. 2,74,000, and the five Divisional Commissioners who should have been done away with by this time Rs. 4,93,700—they have no purpose or utility in the province, as far as we can see. Then there is the great scheme of air-conditioning in the Secretariat. I would warn the Ministers that they cannot function at all if they indulge in such luxuries. I think it is a mockery of the faith and trust of the voters that you spend Rs. 2,00,000 on the air-conditioning of the Secretariat, and the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is not ashamed to say that this was launched or initiated by the section 93 Government. The Police has always featured as an important and major item in bureaucratic budgets and Mr. Mohammed Ali has followed the traditional budget and granted a huge sum of the Police. He has also granted extra sum to the Police. As we have seen in our country only the other day the agents of law and order took a jeep to the All-India Radio office and tried to rush over girls and injured two of the lady volunteers there. These are the people for whom we have to vote sums of money for their jeeps and for their extra armaments to crush the life of the people of this province. I suppose this preparation in the budget is for the coming mighty struggle of the workers and peasants who are going to be unemployed and for whom no provision has been made.

In passing I refer to the non-votable item, that is, 10 lakhs of rupees are required for the *ex-Trade* Unionist Governor to meet his expenditure and Rs. 17,000 a year is required for his medical expense, because although he lives in a grand style, yet perhaps sometime he gets chill or catches ‘flu. Therefore he requires Rs. 17,000 a year to look after him, but the total

medical expenditure for the whole province is Rs. 4 crores which works out at 12 annas per head.

On Education 75 lakhs are granted of which 20 lakhs will go to the primary teachers. There are 60,000 of them and therefore they get Rs. 3 extra per head per month. Yesterday I heard in amazement Mr. Miles who was speaking from the European side. He was alarmed at Soviet methods, but I should remind him and perhaps he does not know or is not well informed enough—that in 1941 in the midst of a mighty war 22 *per cent.* of the Soviet budget was earmarked for education and cultural purposes. In the present budget we find the Finance Minister has granted one crore for Industries, but there is no provision, not the slightest provision for workers' homes and their sanitation. He should go and look around the workers' *bustees* to find out what is happening there in the workers' quarters, how they live with their children and families.

Then he is going to spend 13 lakhs—a huge sum—for Village Industry. We know that the fundamental basis of our life today is in the villages and he is going to spend 13 lakhs only for that, and that is how he is going to save the nation or build the great Bengali nation.

On coming to Agriculture I find that there are 7½ million families who live on land. Of these not even 3½ million families have the barest minimum land to live on, but the Government has sanctioned 1½ crores for agricultural purposes including building costs, and I find with still more amazement that one of the plans suggested by the Bengal Government, the bureaucratic I.C.S. ridden Government was the utilisation of waste land scheme and it seems there are 43 lakh acres of such land, but the Finance Minister could not adopt the scheme. Here was one scheme by which about a million families could have been provided for if we could get this waste land cultivated, but the Minister has nothing to say on this.

Then on *bustees* which are not only a menace as far as epidemics go but a crying shame in Calcutta, he is going to spend only 15 lakhs, but there are million inhabitants in the *bustees* and thus he is going to spend Rs. 1-8 per head!

I further say that do not trust your money, as you have done as far as procurement finance item goes, with the traditional famine-makers of our country—the Ispahanis, the Daulatrams and the Shaw Wallaces. I say without people's committees, without people's co-operation we cannot trust these men with one pice, let alone thousands and lakhs and crores of rupees.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I know that by a majority this Budget may be passed. I urge upon the Minister and the members on the Government benches to think seriously and to keep in mind the suffering of their people. I would remind them that a plan without the people's co-operation is more than useless and therefore I should say that even now there is time to begin. It is no use following the footsteps of your predecessors of ages gone by. In such time as this it is necessary that the Ministry take a bold step, and why not? The Ministry should have the confidence that there are lakhs and millions of people behind it. If it has the confidence then it will be worthy of the trust of those people who voted for them and for whom they are sitting here in this cosy atmosphere of this Assembly. But if they do not honour that trust, a time is soon coming when these mighty Muslims will rise together with the Hindus to one man to sweep away all reaction that lies before them. Therefore I again say, ask for people's co-operation, go to the villages and do not just sit here in a cosy atmosphere and do nothing for the people.

Mr. ANNADA PRASAD CHOWDHURY: Sir, before I proceed to make any observation, I must confess at the outset that I am absolutely new to the House. It was natural, therefore, that the Budget proposals which provided for a total expenditure of over 52 crores raised high hopes in me and it was expected that there would be sufficient provision for the

amelioration of the condition of the sick, the poor and the unemployed. But the more I studied and thought over the details the more was I disappointed because the proposals not only lacked a grasp of realities but were unimaginative and wasteful and were cast in the same old bureaucratic model. These are hard words indeed but that is the impression that has been created in me. Let us examine some of the items.

Education: It is common knowledge that if quick results are to be achieved in liquidating illiteracy and ignorance, adult education has to be taken up. While in the west, the Bombay Presidency is planning to introduce conscription amongst their graduates inasmuch as they will not be entitled to have their diplomas unless they put in at least six months' work on adult education, surprisingly enough Bengal in the east has not provided a single pie on that account out of a total expenditure of over 3½ crores of rupees. I do not propose to suggest that it is according to any plan so that we may be able to exploit their ignorance for some more time and boss over them but I trust that this important aspect probably did not occur to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and suitable provision will now be made.

Public Health: I come from Ghatal, a subdivision which is a dark spot in the whole province on account of malaria. All the industries of the locality are gone and agriculture is probably on its last leg. To add to these conditions there is the havoc caused by malaria. In one municipality, viz., Chandrakona, the population has dwindled down from 21,311 in 1872 to 6,016 in 1931, that is, it shows a decline of 71 per cent. in 60 years.

What have the Government done for combating malaria in such areas? There is of course a solitary instance of anti-malaria measure being tried in Jessore and that at a trifling cost of Rs. 4,000. Could not several hundred such centres be taken up in the whole province if Government were serious in their anti-malaria drive? The supply of quinine and cinchona is absolutely inadequate for our demands. The provision made on cinchona plantation is again insufficient. Of course, the Government are selling a lot of the foreign product mepacrine—the receipt shows 30 lakhs—but is there any plan behind the anti-malaria campaign. It does not require any pioneering work. We can do what Panama and other parts of the world did to eradicate the disease and what the military practised to protect the army in this country. Could not the air-conditioning of the Secretariat at a cost of 2 lakhs of rupees and the conversion of the D. C. current to A. C. at a cost of another 92,000 and huge expenditure in the form of top heavy administration wait or be cut down to find money for eradicating malaria which is eating into the vitals of our people?

Relief: A sum of Rs. 2,89,69,000 has been provided for relief. An instance will show how fictitious and unreal paper entries go to swell this figure. Sometime ago 1,22,000 maunds of deteriorated rice was sold to a local merchant at Bankura at Rs. 8 per maund to enable him to conduct cheap grain shops on behalf of Government. But a system has since been introduced inasmuch as the Relief Department has to purchase rice from the Civil Supplies Department at their rates and the cost in the case of free doles and the loss in the case of cheap grain shops are to be debited to the relief account. From my personal knowledge in Midnapore I can say that the Civil Supplies Department has quoted the price of large stocks of rice, which they have shown as deteriorated in their own reports at Rs. 12-10 to the Relief Department. If the supply be to the extent of say 1 lakh maunds the Civil Supplies Department will show an income of over 4½ lakhs of rupees or in other words the cost of relief will be increased by that amount by the sale of this stock to the Relief Department at a rate higher by Rs. 4-10 compared with the rate at which deteriorated rice was sold to the merchant at Bankura for cheap grain shops, when the new procedure was not adopted. The cost to the Relief Department will be still higher because the Relief Department in the second case has to bear the transport charges

which the merchant had not to pay in Bankura. Thus by fictitious paper entries and additional charges the expenses on relief are unnecessarily inflated to keep the records of the Civil Supplies Department satisfactory. Whom do the Government propose to cheat by such fraudulent entries? In the name of control should premium be given on inefficiency? Sir, the time at my disposal is rather short, otherwise I had a mind to examine the various other items of the Budget proposals one by one, and show how the interests of the masses have been sacrificed by helping the sugar mills, by neglect of village *ghaniwallas* in providing facilities to oil mills; by the incidence of the sales tax on the poor spinners and weavers, if they wanted to buy a *charkha* or a spindle or some cotton, or a loom. If the Government care to remove the difficulties of the common man they can do so even without much loss of revenue if only they become familiar with the objective conditions. If there is a will there is a way. With systematic planning and honest persistent efforts, Russia is rich today. They have succeeded in improving their lot by denying themselves many comforts and even primary necessities of life in the initial stages. Of course, I do not advocate the Soviet methods which involve coercion and force, neither do I suggest their methods being copied wholesale. But may I suggest that the honourable representatives of the poor and the steel-frame which professes to be the servant of the common man will voluntarily go through a process of self-denial at least to a certain extent by way of sacrificing a part of their emoluments and wasteful expenditure on luxuries, air-conditioning and mechanised transport in a country where there are no good roads. We were told yesterday by an honourable friend on the opposite side that Hon'ble Minister, Finance, has a wise head on his young shoulders. I hope and trust he will rise up to the occasion and take courage in both hands, improve upon the proposals and open out a new chapter in the administration of this Province, so that the common man may be appreciative enough and the Budget may not be characterised as unrealistic, unimaginative and wasteful.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been very serious criticism levelled against the budget that has been presented by the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali, Finance Minister. Of course admitting that there are some flaws, some economy might have been effected if more careful consideration would have been bestowed on the Budget. Apart from that the general trend of the Budget is very satisfactory, I should say, because there is not a single department in which we have not got something new. Every department has got some projects which my honourable friend the Finance Minister wants to undertake. This has not been done in the previous years. I say that it may be with Government of India's money, it may be with the money of our Province, but the fact remains that something is going to be done this year which was not done before. So I do not know how with scanty resources and without levying any tax on the public a better budget could have been made by anybody in this House. Of course, while congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Minister on various items I must also point out the loopholes of the budget. We have borrowed feathers from the Government of India and are radiating with them. We ought to have realised that if we could make a Budget of this nature by ourselves, then we would certainly feel proud of that. Now, Sir, in this Budget there are some loopholes which led to very serious criticisms, for example, air conditioning of the Secretariat and purchase of jeep cars and so on and so forth. It goes without saying that air conditioning of the Secretariat was not necessary at all. The luxury and comforts of the public servants lordling over the Secretariat have been given preference over the needs and requirements of the public at large in Bengal. I should say that the plea that has been put forward by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the project was undertaken and well-nigh begun in the regime of section 93—this plea does not hold good. Section 93, as you know, had done so many mischiefs. It was responsible for non-procurement of rice, it

was responsible for the present arrangement of the Secretariat, it was responsible for so many other mischiefs. I think we are out to undo the mischiefs that have been caused by section 93 administration. If we look at the wishes of the European officers sitting over there and whatever was undertaken by them, if we accept them, then we have got no business to run the Government. Our will must be carried out by them. Their wishes should not be carried out by us without any rhyme and reason. (A VOICE: Whose budget is this? Prepared by whom?)

Another thing is the purchase of jeep cars. I think jeep cars will be used by the highest Government officials in the districts as well as in Calcutta. 90 per cent. of the officers for whom the jeep cars are meant have got their own cars. They can go to their offices, to their private business in their own cars, but when they will go for the purpose of Government work, they must use the jeep cars purchased at the cost of Government. Only the District Magistrates and Subdivisional Magistrates are allowed to use these jeep cars and no officers subordinate to them are allowed to do so. So, Sir, I think this we could have avoided very well.

Now, Sir, another thing which I must point out is that the Finance Minister has said that probably he has tapped all the resources that he could find possible for increasing the finance of this province. But I think, as I have said before, if he had more carefully thought, he might have found that there were more proportion of money on our side of the country to do something more for our own men and we would not have had to ask for a loan from the Government of India. For example, in the Secretariat and all over the Province we have got many I.C.S. people, and European I.C.S. people particularly, who draw much more salary than a Bengali or an Indian I.C.S. because of their overseas allowances. It is high time, Sir, that we get rid of these European I.C.S. officers, there are officers amongst us—both Hindus and Muslims—who can with equal efficiency conduct and administer the Government of the province.

Now, Sir, we have seen that unfortunately for us we cannot, according to the Government of India Act, touch their salary or their service; we can simply transfer them from one place to another. This is the position and shall we always keep them over our head in the Secretariat over whom we have no control? So, Sir, the policy of the Government today should be to do with as much less with them as possible and the sooner we can get rid of them the better for us.

Sir, another thing that I want to point out is that economy might also have been effected if we could do away with the two cadres of services which go by the names of Bengal Civil Service and Bengal Junior Civil Service. With the same University Degree and appearing at the same competitive examination one is put on a higher salary and another on a lower. A Sub-divisional Officer or a Treasury Officer may be a Sub-Deputy Collector or may be a Deputy Magistrate, and though they may work with equal efficiency the salary of the gentleman who is a Sub-Deputy Collector is almost half of that of the Deputy Magistrate. Why not do away with these two cadres and amalgamate them? Why not do away with the cadre of Deputy Magistrate? That will give you more money that may be spent for other nation-building purposes. Therefore, Sir, my suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister is to do away with these two kinds of services and turn them into one so that a good deal of economy may be effected.

Sir, another item which I want to point out is this: the Government of Bengal has spent or is likely to spend Rs. 75 lakhs to secure participation in the Government of India's scheme for the production of artificial fertiliser. What the fertiliser is has been left beautifully vague. No mention has been made of the fertiliser they are going to use. But may I ask, Sir, why are we going to pay the Government of India Rs. 75 lakhs? Is it an interest on the subvention that we are getting from them? Sir, we are told and I

know that the fertiliser that will be produced in Bihar will simply be the fertiliser which goes by the name of ammonia sulphate. That has been the plan of the Government of India, viz., to produce ammonia sulphate in Bihar and then supply it to the other provinces. Sir, the question of fertiliser is very important in Bengal. If you cannot increase the productivity of the soil of Bengal the food position of this province will never be solved. If you compare the productivity of the land of Bengal with that of other countries it will be seen that it is hopelessly below the mark. So the question of fertiliser is the most important question so far as the improvement of the soil of Bengal is concerned. But the fertiliser they will manufacture over there is ammonia sulphate which cannot be used in this province. As it has been found by expert and eminent scientists in America and even in Russia, this ammonia sulphate never does any good to the plant but ruins the land within five or six years. In the first, second and third year you may get bumper crops but after three or four years the whole land will be barren and nothing will grow over there. This has been the experience, Sir, of many farms who have used ammonia sulphate. If you go to Hooghly and Howrah you will find people crying and saying that they have been finished by using this chemical on their land which they are now trying to sell out. The Government of Bengal have not at all enquired whether the fertiliser which has been or is going to be manufactured in Bihar will be useful for Bengal. The soil of every province has got its own peculiarities: the soil of Bengal is not like the soil of the United Provinces or Central Province. The soil of Bengal may require one kind of fertiliser and the soil of Bihar may require another. So, Sir, I do request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to find out whether this ammonia sulphate which will be produced under this project in Bihar will be useful to the soil of Bengal. If it is not useful but does rather harm to the soil of this province, then this ammonia sulphate must not be bought through the Central Exchequer.

Then, Sir, we have sustained a great loss on account of Boat Construction and other items as well. I do not know what has happened to the boats: we have spent enough money for the movements, we are giving the contracts for movements to the people.

(At this stage the blue light was lit and the member having asked for further time was told that he had two minutes more.)

Sir, I will finish within two minutes. Sir, I do not know why the boats could not be used for movements. Were they delivered at all? Otherwise, if you can employ other people's boats for movements, why not utilise these boats if they were delivered at all? Sir, I do want that an Enquiry Committee be set up to see whether these boats were delivered at all and if not, what is Government going to do in the matter.

Now, Sir, there is another point. We have heard that considerable foodstuff deteriorated and was found unfit for human consumption and was thrown into the Ganges. I suggest that expert scientists be engaged to make something out of this rotten stuff. In Europe and America the same problem was there. There the scientists found out that even the deteriorated and rotten foodstuffs could be made some use of. May I ask, Sir, why it was not done in our country. The contingency is still there and there is food shortage. So before throwing the rotten stuff into the Ganges, Government should, I think, set up another machinery to see whether anything can be done from the deteriorated stuff.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSH: Sir, the deficiency of the Budget has been exposed by previous speakers. Some of them I daresay with the help of the microscope have even discovered some good points in it. I do not intend to traverse the same ground except to say this that the peculiar circumstance under which two budgets were prepared this year, one in February and another now, has yielded this rather interesting proof of the fact not well known to the lay public that the youngest Finance Minister of

Bengal like his elder predecessors in office had more or less rubber-stamped what officials had placed before him. ("Hear", "hear" from Congress benches.)

Sir, this afternoon I intend to do two things. In the first place I would like to make a brief review of the record of the stewardship of the finances of this province under the aegis of the Muslim League Government extending over a period of nearly a decade, and secondly, if I have time, I would like to expose the deficiencies, inevitable deficiencies of embarking upon a developmental programme prepared by officials who themselves say it was nothing but tentative, whose object was primarily not that of raising the standard of living of masses but that of providing employment for demobilised personnel and to which Ministers evidently could give no time or attention.

Sir, the province began with a clean slate with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy in 1937. A debt of 8 crores and 41 lakhs, which Bengal owed to the Centre, was wiped out under the Niemeyer Award and her share of Jute Export Duty was increased from 50 to 62½ *per cent*. It was expected that with these concessions Bengal would be enabled to extend and further develop her nation-building activities with a view to ameliorate the condition of her people. That expectation has been grievously belied. Today when all other provinces have surplus budgets and have in addition built up substantial post-war reconstruction funds, Bombay having contributed 13½ crores to such a Fund, Bengal has not only been not able to contribute a single pie to such a fund but on the contrary has been saddled with an uncovered indebtedness of a sum exceeding 20 crores of rupees. The usual explanation of the Ministry and their supporters including the European Party is war and famine. I shall soon come to that. But I might first examine an argument advanced by Mr. Suhrawardy, the then Finance Minister, in presenting, I believe, his budget for 1941-42. The argument ran something like this: that the revenues of Bengal were much smaller than those of other major provinces with the inevitable result that her *per capita* expenditure on nation-building activities compared unfavourably with that of the other provinces. Now, apart, Sir, from the implication of this rather uncomplimentary assumption that Bengal with her ability and ingenuity, given comparable conditions, cannot produce something better, even facts do not substantiate Mr. Suhrawardy's hypothesis. I will compare conditions in Bengal with those of Madras and U. P., which have comparable populations. Unfortunately, Madras budgets are not available in the Assembly Library since 1941-42, but in 1940-41 the total revenues of Madras were 3 crores more than Bengal's 13 crores and those of the United Provinces were about the same as Bengal's. In 1944-45 the revenues of United Provinces were 27 crores against Bengal's 32 crores excluding 7 crores obtained by way of free gift from the Government of India. And yet in regard to *per capita* expenditure on social services in 1940-41 it was Re. 1 in Madras, 12 annas in the United Provinces and 11 annas in Bengal. I may also mention that the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee computed this expenditure over the period 1900-1943 as 14 annas in Madras, 10 annas in United Provinces and 9 annas in Bengal. So much for Mr. Suhrawardy's argument about disparity in provincial revenues and its effects on nation-building activities.

Now to come to War and Famine, and to take up War first. The expenditure Bengal had to incur on account of War was nothing peculiar or special to Bengal. Other provinces had to incur it but their finances have not been dislocated. It is true that much more than most of the other provinces Bengal was directly in the war zone. But Assam was even more so. Much more than Bengal was she nearer to the war and subjected to its ravages but Assam emerged from the war with her finances intact producing

revenue surplus from year to year even after setting apart a not inconsiderable amount of Rs. 1 crore 10 lakhs towards her post-war reconstruction fund.

Let us now take up Famine. It may be argued that Assam was not ravaged by a famine. But why should Bengal have been? Who was responsible for that? I do not intend to recapitulate the painful story of that grim tragedy nor revive bitter memories or recriminations. But what passes my comprehension, Sir, is this: that notwithstanding the fact that this Government was responsible for the death of millions of people by starvation and its aftermath, notwithstanding that fact this Government has been able to use and use successfully and with impunity the argument of the famine as an explanation of the dislocated financial condition of Bengal and also to obtain primarily with the help of the European Party substantial concessions from the Government of India. But let us for the moment accept the fact of the famine and try to assess its financial cost. Now, over the period 1943-44 to 1946-47 the total cost, if I remember aright, under the head "Famine" is 13½ crores. If you want to add the cost of Civil Defence to that as particularly due to the war we have to add another 2½ crores. Against that we have to set off an amount of about 1¼ crores obtained under the head "Extraordinary Receipts" so that the total expenditure under these two heads comes to about 13½ crores against which the Government of Bengal obtained a free gift of 15 crores from the Central Government which more than made up the expenditure under these two heads.

Now, Sir, I am aware that in presenting his budget last year Mr. Goswami attached a statement to his budget speech detailing expenditure connected with the war. Now, there are certain items in that statement which, as I have said, were common to the other provinces as well and were not peculiar to Bengal. But there were certain other items which are the manifestations of the malady itself and of the primary causes which, I hold, have been responsible for the present financial plight of Bengal. Sir, I am firmly convinced, after a careful reading of the budget since 1937, that the primary causes of the present financial plight of Bengal are neither inadequate revenues, comparatively speaking, nor so much the war and the famine as utter incompetence and sheer inefficiency as evidenced by huge trading losses and wasteful administrative expenditure aggravated further by political, sectional and communal considerations.

To take, Sir, trading losses over the period between 1943-44 and 1946-47, they amount to 23 crores made up as follows:—

Foodgrains Purchase Schemes	... 21 crores.
Boat construction	... 2 crores

Now, why should there have been these losses when other provinces had not to experience them? Who were the people to whom rice was supplied at a subsidised rate? What were the selling and the purchasing prices of rice in 1944-45 and 1945-46? Has an audit been done in the Government trading operations, and if so, with what result? Sir, I am sure, if a proper audit is done, much more serious losses will be revealed in the Budget. And now about administrative expenditure we have only to cite the case of the Civil Supplies Department. Now about the loss of 23 crores I just now mentioned, Hon'ble Ministers should realise that that amount is double the pre-war normal annual revenue of Bengal and constitutes more than 18 per cent. of the total revenue of this province over the period between 1943-44 and 1946-47 excluding amounts received from the Government of India. Now to come back to wasteful administrative expenditure, the cost of establishment of the Civil Supplies Department was cited, and rightly so. It was five crores last year, and this year it is estimated at 6 crores. I may mention that the cost of establishment of the United

Provinces Government for the same department is Rs. 1,20,00,000 and the population of United Provinces is 55 millions as against Bengal's 60 millions.

Now, Sir, if this is the position what should be done about it? I think the first and foremost thing that needs to be done is to stop trading losses or at least to bring them down within the limits permissible by business standards. There is no reason why there should have been this huge loss. Other provinces which also render the same service have not had to suffer this loss, and by now Government should also have gained sufficient experience not to incur such a loss.

In the second place, the cost of administration must be reduced to the minimum. Until that is done, no fresh monies should be placed in the hands of this Government by way of fresh taxation, because if money is placed in the hands of this Government that will be wasted. And I do not think as I read some of the budget discussions in previous years that it was advisable to put arguments in the hands of Government to approach the Government of India for additional concessions in order that those moneys might be wastefully spent in various schemes to further essentially partisan and sectional interests.

In the third place Government should bestow thought and attention on husbanding Bengal's resources and devising ways and means for strengthening the social and economic fabric of this province.

Sir, I would appeal to my friends opposite who have great influence to bring that influence to bear upon the Government in order that they may mend their ways and put Bengal's finance in a proper shape. It is a sad reflection, Sir, that we who realise the dangers ahead have been compelled to become unwilling witnesses in this Muslim Government's mad race towards mass starvation, utter misery and financial bankruptcy—a state of affairs, Sir, which I believe my friends opposite would describe as 'Pakistan'. Sir, I am not at all surprised that the people of Assam are mortally afraid of their fate being linked up with this province.

Sir, I am afraid there is no time to go into an examination of the development programmes of this Government, and I would leave that task to abler hands amongst my friends. (Applause.)

MR. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hasten to accord my congratulations for the very lucid and clear Budget which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented before the House. Sir, I maintain and hold that criticism, whether it comes from the Opposition or from any other quarter, must be considered sympathetically provided the criticism is healthy, dignified and put forth constructive suggestions. I further hold that even a member of the party to which the Hon'ble Minister belongs is entitled to put forth constructive suggestions and criticise so far as it is necessary to give effect to his suggestions. Sir, if the criticism is devoid of any constructive suggestion and merely consists of vituperation or abuse of all persons who are supposed to be opposed to them it is a gross abuse of the privilege of the member. Criticise them by all means but this should be done in a dignified way which may be thought worthy of persons holding the privileged position of a representative of the people. I for one will not say anything whether the speeches which were delivered, if measured by the standard which I have just now formulated, are proper and dignified.

Now, Sir, I must be excused for the digression but even if it be considered a digression this digression is relevant to the issue inasmuch as it relates to the criticism of the budget itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to finish by half past five when we will rise for prayer.

MR. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: I will finish in five minutes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: How long will the House sit to-day, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Up to 6-30.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, I want the House to consider that it is a British budget. It is the budget of a subject people which are still under the shackles. It is not the budget of a free people or of a free Government. We are still carrying on the British administration which in every respect is subordinate to the Governor, Governor-General, Viceroy and ultimately to the Secretary of State and through him to the King Emperor. It is not the budget of a free or independent Bengal. Here we must follow the principle and methods which have been prescribed for us by the British people in the shape of the Government of India Act 1935. I submit, Sir, that unless and until the Government of India Act, 1935, is scrapped and unless and until Bengal is declared independent there is no salvation for the people of Bengal. Our budget will continue to follow the footsteps of earlier budgets whether you put Mr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee or Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy or Mr. Fazlul Huq or Mr. Nazimuddin or Mr. Shaheed in the guddi. The guddi is the same on which Lord Clive put Mir Jaffar. If any of them revolt he will meet the fate of Mirkasem who tried for the last time for the independence of Bengal and free Bengal from the domination of the Europeans, but failed owing to the treachery of Gurgaon Khan, the Quisling. Well, Sir, the King's administration must be carried on anyhow by us, the subject people, and I submit that this is the best Budget that can be devised under the Government of India Act, 1935, under present circumstances. (Loud noise from the Congress Benches.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Which King you mean?

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: I mean the King of England. The Budget is prepared under the Government of India Act enacted by the British Parliament and which received the consent of the King of England. Therefore, I make no apology for repeating my congratulations to the Hon'ble Finance Minister. If you really want to see a good Budget, if you really want to be free and enjoy the freedom which is our birth-right, break off the chain and shackles of British Imperialism which are being thrown round our hands and necks. Let Bengal be independent in the truest sense of the term. After making Bengal independent we should see that she does not come under the supremacy of the Centre which will be dominated by the industrialists and the *bania* magnates the majority of whom are Bombay businessmen, Bhatias and Marwaris and others. (Loud noise.) So much for the principles on which the Budget is based. As I said before I am entitled to criticise the Budget and I shall do so in my own way. Sir, I would place before the Hon'ble Minister some constructive suggestions, which if put into effect, will go a long way—.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Would your constituency agree with your views?

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Yes, they will. Sir, in the month of August, 1944—(Loud noise.)

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

~ (After adjournment.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There are quite a number of speakers. So I want to reduce the time limit to 10 minutes so that at least 4 members may be accommodated to-day.

Mr. MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, I want to speak again.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you have already finished.

Mr. Md. ABDUS SALAM : মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রীর মহাশয়ের বাজেট আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে সর্বসাধারণের টাকার যদি কিছুটা অপচয় হয় সে সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করা দরকার। Civil Supply Headএ বড় বড় অফিসারদের দেখলে মনে হচ্ছে, এবং দেখতে পাই অনেক বড় বড় অফিসার আছেন--তারা retire করে retirementএর ৫০% pay পাচ্ছে, আবার re-appointed হয়ে তারা পুরা বেতন ভোগ করছে। কাজেই একই লোক দু-ভাবে মাইনা নিচ্ছে--সেটা বাস্তবিকপক্ষে খুব অন্যায়। এই সমস্ত লোকদিগকে অতিশীঘ্র discharge করে যারা নাকি নতুন Sub-Deputy Magistrate ও Deputy Magistrate হয়েছে সেই সমস্ত লোক দিয়ে ঐ সমস্ত কাজ চালান যেতে পারে--তাতে জনসাধারণের অনেক টাকা বাঁচে। তাতে অন্য দিক দিয়ে যে সমস্ত complaint এই সমস্ত অফিসারদের বিরুদ্ধে হয় তা শুধু এই সব কারণেই হয় যে এই সমস্ত অফিসারদের চাকরীর কোন মায়া নেই। তারা জানে যে তাদের চাকরী নেই। কাজেই যে কয়দিন এখানে থাকে তারা দু-হাতে চেষ্টা করে কিছু পয়সা বোজগাব করে নিতে। কাজেই এই সমস্ত retired officer যাদের extension বা re-appointment দেওয়া হচ্ছে Govt.এর পক্ষে উচিত অতিশীঘ্র তাদের discharge করে নতুন লোকদের সেখানে appointment দেওয়া, যাদের চাকরীর মায়া আছে--যাদের নাকি ভবিষ্যতের আশা আছে। অন্যদিকে হচ্ছে--যে সমস্ত Deputy, Subdeputy Magistrate on Civil Supply Dept.এ কাজ করে তাদের যা নাকি grade ও pay আছে তাব চেয়ে এক পয়সাও বেশী পায় না। কিন্তু অন্যদিকে লক্ষ্য করলে দেখা যাচ্ছে বাস্তবিকপক্ষে ধরে এনে Subdivisional Controller বা District Controller ইত্যাদি করা হচ্ছে--তারা ওদের চেয়ে double মাইনা পাচ্ছে। Corruption, Dishonestyএর একটা কারণ। অনেক অফিসার মনে করে আমরা Subdeputy বা Deputy Magistrate বলে আমাদের যা মাইনা তা fixed আছে আর যে সমস্ত নতুন লোককে appointment দেওয়া হচ্ছে আমাদের চেয়ে তাদের double বেতন দেওয়া হচ্ছে। কাজেই আমাদের দুটা পয়সা করা--যে কোন অবস্থায়ই হোক। এই সমস্ত পার্থক্য থাকা ঠিক নয়। যদি মাইনা বাড়তে হয় তবে সমস্ত অফিসারদের একই অবস্থায় রাখা উচিত।

Public Health সম্বন্ধে আমাদের বাজেটে যা দেখছি যে কলিকাতা নগরীতে একটি কলেজ ও কয়েকটি স্থল থাকা সত্ত্বেও আমাদের ক্যাথলিক স্থলকে কলেজে পরিণত করবার একটা চেষ্টা হচ্ছে। সেই সময় আপশোষের কথা হচ্ছে যে Lake areaতে প্রায় এক হাজার বেডের Temporary Medical College ও হাসপাতাল স্থাপনের ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে। এখন আমাদের দেখবার ও বিবেচনার কথা হচ্ছে এই যে কলকাতায় কাবা চিকিৎসা করতে বা পড়তে আসে? যাদের দুটো পয়সা আছে। কিন্তু যে গরীব--যাদের কলিকাতা আসবার মত বা যাদের ছেলে পেলেনের কলিকাতায় পড়বার মত সামর্থ্য নাই--তাদের কলকাতা এসে বাসা ভাড়া করে ডাক্তার দেখান বা বড় বড় কলেজে বা হাসপাতালে ঢুকবার মত সামর্থ্য নেই--তাদের অবস্থা যেমন ছিল, ঠিক তেমনই আছে এবং থাকবে। কিন্তু যে সমস্ত এলাকাতে ১৯৪৩ সালে এবং বর্তমানেও ঔষধের অভাব, একটা কুইনিন পিলের অভাব, একটা Injectionএর অভাব--যেখানে শত শত লোক মরছে--তাব জন্য Govt. এবং আমরা কি করছি? সেই দিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়া আমাদের একান্ত দরকার। আমার মনে হয়--এই সমস্ত কলজ করে এই সমস্ত high education দিয়ে যে সময় লাগবে এবং যে সমস্ত টাকা দরকার হবে ঠিক ততদিনে আমাদের দেশের অনেকে মরে ভুত হয়ে যাবে। কাজেই যদি দেশের লোককে বাঁচাতে হয়--যত শীঘ্র সম্ভব দুই তিনটা ইউনিয়ন নিয়ে একটি হাসপাতাল করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন এবং কলেজের পরিবর্তে প্রত্যেক District Head Quarterএ একটি করে medical school করা দরকার।

তারপর কথা হচ্ছে আমাদের Education--Free Primary School সম্বন্ধে। অনেকদিন পর্যন্ত চেষ্টাযেছি আমরা যে ভবিষ্যৎ আশা ভবনা যাদের উপর নির্ভর করছে ঠিক সেই সমস্ত ছেলেপেলের শিক্ষা শুরু যারা নাকি তাদের শিখাবে, যারা নাকি লেখাপড়া করাবে--তাদের হাতে বাড়ি দেবে, তাদের অভাব অভিযোগের কথা আমরা জানি এবং আশ্রয়ও তাদের অনেক দিয়েছি। কিন্তু বাজেট পড়ে আপশোষ হয়--তাদের জন্য যে সামান্য টাকা ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, তা যথেষ্ট নয়। এছাড়া আমাদের election এর পূর্বেও পরে যে কথা আউ-ডিয়েন্সি--যে কথা বলে আমাদের জনসাধারণকে আশ্রয় দিচ্ছি যে শীঘ্রই Secondary Education Bill পাশ করে দিতে চাই, সেই Secondary Education Bill সম্বন্ধে বাজেটে কোন কিছুই দেখা যাচ্ছে না কেন?

তারপর জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদ সম্পর্কে আমাদের যে পবিত্রপনা সকলে যা উপলব্ধি করছি আজ বাংলার কৃষক, বাংলার জনসাধারণ জমিদারদের অত্যাচারে অত্যাচারিত--যাবা ধ্বংসপ্রাপ্ত, যাবা সর্বস্ব হারা তাদের যদি বাঁচাতে হয়, জাতিকে এবং সমাজকে যদি রক্ষা করতে হয় তবে একমাত্র পথ এবং পন্থা হচ্ছে জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদ করা। এবং এই সমস্ত জেনে শুনেও আমাদের সেই জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের জন্য আমাদের বাজেটে কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই কেন?

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: I am sorry, Sir, the time given for my speech has been reduced by 5 minutes. So, I am afraid I shall not be able to do justice to all the points that I desire to discuss.

Sir, the merits and demerits of the budget should depend on this—how far it promotes the all-embracing well-being of the people, such as raising his standard of living, relieving his indebtedness, mitigating his continued suffering due to the cruel visitation of Nature, disease, pestilence and poverty and increasing his social amenities. This standard should be applied in judging the budget, but viewed from this angle I find that this budget makes a dismal and a very disappointing reading and reveals certain rather peculiar softness for certain vested interests on the part of the Ministry. Sir, really speaking, this is a jobber's budget, profiteers' budget, contractors' budget, police-pampering budget, bureaucrats' budget. There is the too familiar and unmistakable arid touch of the hide-bound steel frame Civil Service in it.

Sir, I feel there is no provision for giving immediate relief to the people who are already in the grip of famine—there is no provision like that. I am not going to dwell on all these points just now.

First of all I should like to point out certain serious omissions in the budget which have struck me and which are very significant commentaries upon the popular character of this budget. I have ransacked the whole budget and found no mention regarding salt industry. Why this item is omitted I do not know. Sir, you know salt is one of the most essential ingredients of our daily meals. The total requirement of Bengal is 9½ lakhs of maunds. The production in Bengal is 9 lakhs and Bengal is deficit by 84 lakhs and we import all these from other places. Sir, you know for this salt we have to depend upon the merchants of Karachi and Aden. There were some dark hints thrown in the press that those Karachi merchants belong to certain political persuasion, I mean Muslim League, and the League Ministry of Bengal is politically interested in this matter and so it is not taking up this industry. I do not know if there is any basis for this apprehension but it is for the Minister to explain away this, otherwise people will apprehend like this.

Then, Sir, if a sum of Rs. 20 or 25 lakhs is invested in this industry, Bengal may be self-sufficient in this matter. I know that about a year ago the Bengal Government formed a Salt Enquiry Committee and that Committee submitted its report to the Government, but nothing is further known of that enquiry report. They made certain recommendations regarding the salt industry, but the Bengal Government is peculiarly silent. What is the reason? Is it because the apprehension that was raised in the press is going to be true?

Then, Sir, another omission is the omission of the hand-loom industry too. There is no mention of the hand-loom industry. Bengal is passing through a cloth crisis and everybody knows it. Our people are committing suicide for it. According to the Fact Finding Committee of the India Government, there are 1,42,000 hand-looms in Bengal and weavers number more than 2 lakhs. They cannot get their yarn and for want of yarn they are passing through poverty without employment and they are suffering untold hardship. If you invest only about Rs. 2 crores in starting spinning mills, I think millions of people would find their means of living and the cloth problem also would be readily solved thereby. But why is the Ministry silent on this point? I think here is also the question of alliance with certain vested interests and they must get rid of these vested interests.

Then I come to the question of jute. It is a very significant question. Sir. The people of Bengal are much agitated over this. In Bengal the question of jute is not one of production but one of price. You know, Sir, that Bengal produces about 4 crores maunds of jute but if we have regard to the price of hessian it can be easily worked out and various experts are of

this opinion that the price of jute can be easily fixed at Rs. 30. Even then the hessian market will not go low. So why is it that the Ministry is silent on this point? Even it is clear, crystal clear that in order to keep up their existence the Ministry will not help this. If the minimum price of jute is fixed at, say, Rs. 20, I am sure Rs. 40 to 45 crores will go into the cultivators' hands. But the Ministry for reasons well known will not allow that as the jute industrialists who thrive at the cost of the poor cultivators will suffer in that event.

Then there is the question of quinine industry. I read in the Red Book on the receipt side that Government expected a revenue of Rs. 20,50,000 from the quinine industry but for increased production of quinine they have only invested Rs. 3,39,000. Why is it so? For quinine they will depend on other countries. You know, Sir, that thousands of people are suffering from malaria and Bengal is going to be depopulated on account of this disease. I know, Sir, that during the last famine there were many villagers and there are many villagers even now who are dying of malaria without a single dose of quinine. We have expert opinion to the effect that if only Rs. 20,25,000 be invested in quinine industry Bengal will be self-sufficient in that regard.

Sir, I am not going to discuss the other points. Another thing I shall point out and that relates to sugar industry. You know, Sir, that Bengal is efficient in that respect. Bengal requires 2 lakhs maunds of sugar—

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got to bring one point to the notice of honourable members. One member has crossed between me and the member addressing the House twice. He is perhaps a new member; still I would inform honourable members that it is derogatory to the Chair and to the House for any member to cross between the Chair and the member addressing the House.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: As regards land revenue I shall say this only. They have taken up the programme of revisional settlement in regard to the plan of liquidating the permanent settlement. I think it is too sufficient. Why should not such measures be speeded up? I think such measures should not be taken up by dribblets.

Then, Sir, one word I would only mention and that relates to the loss of Rs. 2 crores on subsidised food. I know there are many places where agents and sub-agents of Government purchased rice at the rate of Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 from the villages and they in their turn brought those articles to the towns and sold them under Government auspices at the rate of Rs. 16 or Rs. 17. Will you say that there is loss. Can you account for this loss? Why should there be this loss? Can the Ministry explain that?

As regards the Civil Supplies Department, it is full of corruption and very heavy. Many members have already spoken about that. In regard to this department I will cite a single instance on which I will concentrate the rest of my speech. Sir, you have heard a good deal about Multi-purpose Society that is functioning in Kishoreganj. You know, Sir, that at the head of that the guiding spirit of that multi-purpose society is the Subdivisional Officer. It is the handiwork of that communal, corrupt Subdivisional Officer—

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: I hope you will speak about this outside the Chamber.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: I am speaking the truth. It is for the Ministry to take him to task. As you know, Sir, there are 60 criminal cases against the Secretaries and office-bearers of the Societies and there is a case pending against the Subdivisional Officer even. I am speaking of the Subdivisional Officer about whom a question was asked in this House in the first part of 1945 regarding his moral character and about his misconduct

with certain nurses. You know, Sir, that this question was discussed in this House. I am speaking about that Subdivisional Officer about whom the District Judge in his judgment in an appeal case said—

Mr. SPEAKER: You have reached the time-limit.

Mr. MANORANJAN DHAR: Sir, District Judge said that prosecution should have been launched against this Subdivisional Officer. This Subdivisional Officer behaved with a public servant, a subordinate officer, in a shameless way. I hope Government will take action against him.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, not a single member of the Treasury benches is here and the budget is being discussed.

Mr. TAFAZZAL ALI: Notes are being taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is desirable that the Hon'ble Ministers—at least the Hon'ble the Finance Minister—should be here when the budget is being discussed.

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The Hon'ble Finance Minister has just gone outside. He will come back just now.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Cannot the Ministry be placed in the hands of the Court of Wards?

Mr. MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The Finance Minister has asked us to take notes of the speeches.

Mr. SYED MOHAMMED SERAJUL HUQ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for the able manner in which he has presented the Budget.

We realise that he has inherited the cumulative effect of the administrative Acts taken under section 93 of the Act and that in some ways his hands are being tied by the commitments already entered into.

Sir, a deficit of 10 crores of rupees is a very serious thing. Under normal conditions such a deficit would spell disaster for the province. We realise however that in the present conditions this cannot be helped. We cannot afford to go with a beggar's bowl to the Centre every year. We cannot, we must not allow the Centre every year to exercise a stranglehold over the economic and political developments of the province by holding this Damocles' sword over us. The iniquitous Meston Award must go. We hope the Government will press for an equitable and just settlement as between the Centre and the province. This is a point which we, on this side of the House, want to be taken up irrespective of the constitutional moods that are now going on. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been provided for as Bengal's contribution to the Central Government's scheme for the construction of a fertilizer's plant in Bihar. Government have deliberately agreed to provide for a scheme which cuts at the root of Bengal's agricultural self-sufficiency. They have by implication been a party to economic Akhand Hindusthan. We want to know why it could not be arranged that the plant was set up in Bengal. Have we any reason to suppose that if Bengal were to pursue an independent agricultural and economic policy the Hindu dominated Bihar and other provinces running the plant will co-operate with us? Our experiences in the last famine are still too fresh and bitter to allow us to hope that.

A few words about the development programmes. I hope the Government will vigorously pursue the plans now to be taken up, so that unlike our past experience the major portions of the programme do not remain unexecuted at the end of the financial year with consequent gain to the closing balance but loss to the wellbeing of the province as a whole.

In this connection I would like to point out—I hope the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Development is already aware—that a great many water-reservoirs are existent in the hilly regions of the Chittagong Division which if properly dumped would be a great source of water power on the one hand and on the other would successfully prevent the disastrous floods with which we have been unfortunately familiar in recent years. The regulated flow of water from these natural reservoirs would be a source of winter irrigation for the rich rabi crop; besides cheap hydro-electricity which could give employment in cottage industries to the immensely dense population of Noakhali and Tippera. I am sure the Tripura State would co-operate with us in any reasonable proposition of this nature.

We want vision and imagination and daring on the part of our popular Minister.

Srijut ASHUTOSH MULLICK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা সরকারের অর্থ-সচিবের এবারকার বাজেট প্রবন্ধ ১৯৩৫ সালের Government of India Actএর অন্তর্ভুক্ত ভিভানশুই তত্ত্বেরই পরিশিষ্ট। তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতা আমলাতন্ত্র উপদেষ্টার মনস্তত্ত্বের জন্য আগাগোড়া পুণঃচারণের মন্ত্র। শাস্তির দোহাই পেড়ে ইংবেজ লড়াই করে। আবার লড়াইএব দোহাই পেড়ে তার ভোজ্যের ভাঙার মুনাফার উপায়, আমাদের বাংলা দেশকে সাবা ভাবতবর্ষকে ফতুর করে। আর সেই লড়াইএব ধাক্কা সামলাতে সামলাতে বাংলা সরকারের মাথায় বৎসরের পব বৎসর দেউলিয়া দুর্নীত পৌনঃপুনিক দশমিকের ন্যায় চড়ে বসে। বর্তমান বৎসরের বাংলা সরকারের বাজেটেও পূর্বত প্রমাণ ১০ কোটি টাকা ঘাটতি। অবশ্য বাজেটে ঘাটতি শেষ অমার্জনীয় অপবাহ নয়—যদি তাব পিছনে কর্মশক্তি প্রেরণ থাকে—জাতিগঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনা বিদ্যমান থাকে। কিন্তু যে কোন অজুহাতে অপব্যয় অপচয় বরদাশ্ত করা যায় না—কিংবা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীয় শৈশবস্থ উপেক্ষণীয় বস্তু নহে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বেপবোয়া গৌরী সেনের টাকায় হলপথে, জলপথে, আকাশপথে ভ্রমণ বিলাস চরিতার্থ জন্য প্রচুর অপব্যয়ের ববাদ কবেছেন। বাংলা সরকারের তরুণ অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়ের বাজেট বচনায় ডাকপোষ লেশমাত্র নাই। আছে বান্ধকোষ স্বার্থ-প্রণোদিত সাম্প্রদায়িকতা প্রীতি এবং স্বজন প্রতিপালনের মনোবৃত্তির প্রভাব। বাংলা সরকার একদিকে যেমন সাম্প্রদায়িক আবেদনকে তেমনই অক্ষম। ফলে কর্তব্যপরাযণতা ও শক্তি দুই খেকেই বঞ্চিত। তাব একমাত্র ক্ষীণ আশ্রয় হচ্ছে প্রথা। পিতামহের আমলের চাকরের মত। সে কাজ কবে কম, অথচ কর্তব্য কবে বেশী। যাকে মেনে চলতে হলে তাকে এগিয়ে চলবার উপায় থাকে না। কিন্তু বর্তমান জগতের মানুষ সকল প্রকার দাবীর বিচার করবার অধিকার আর পুরাতন রাজনীতি, ইতিহাস ও গতানুগতিকতার উপর ছেড়ে দিতে পুষ্ত নহে। তাই বলে ন্যায় দাবী কভায় গণ্ডায় বুঝে নেওয়ার অর্থ দর্জিহুঁড়া গরুর মত ছুটে বেড়ান নয়। আবার সাম্য অর্থে সব কিছুকে কেটে ছেঁটে সমান করাও নয়। উভয়ের অর্থই ন্যায় বিচার কবে সকলের অধিকার, দাবী, ও যথার্থ পাওনা গণ্ডা মেনে নিয়ে তা মিটাবার সুব্যবস্থা করা। দৈবাৎ কোন বিশেষ আতুত ঘরে জন্মগ্রহণ কবায় কাবও ন্যায় দাবীর মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি হওয়াটা অবাকনীয় কিংবা খুত্‌নি অথবা ব্রহ্মতালুতে কেশেদগম করা হলে তত্ত্বজ্ঞা কাহাকেও বিশেষভাবে সন্ত্রম প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এটা কোন কাজের কথা নয়। কিংবা বিশেষ বিশেষ তত্ত্ব লাগিয়ে ধুরে বেড়ালে কাহাকেও মহাক্ষমী বলে মেনে নিতে হবে ইহাও স্বীকার্য নয়। তাবপর ধর্মোন্নাদনা রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে অচল। যেমন গবের কেতে ধানগাছ আগাছা। জাতীয় আন্তঃসম্মানবোধ আমাদের দেশে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে এখনও অপ্রবৃদ্ধ। তাই ব্যক্তিগত ক্ষমতা প্রাপ্তির দুরাশায় সর্বত্র কয়েকজন লুন্ড লোকের হানাহানি কাটাকাটির যুনিপাক। কাজেই নকতুমিতেও পক্ষপালের ভীড় জমেছে। নির্ভেজাল ইসলাম নিকম-কথিত লীগ-অনুশাসিত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বাজেট বচনায় জাতিগঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনা বিরল। কেবলমাত্র যৎকিঞ্চিৎ তপশীলী আয়েদকবী খাদ মিশ্রিত থাকায় বাজেটে নূতন নূতন চাকরী সৃষ্টির দিগদরিয়া ব্যবস্থায় গঠননৈপুণ্যের কথঞ্চিৎ মহিমা প্রকাশ পেয়েছে। বায় বরাদ্দের সর্বপ্রথম উদ্দেশ্যযোগ্য মন্ত্রী ও উচ্চপদস্থ কর্মচারীদের নিজেদের মতলব সিদ্ধি এবং দলগত ও ব্যক্তিগত আশ্রিত জনের প্রতিপালনের উপায় উদ্ভাবন। যদিও প্রয়োজনের আসবাবকে লোকে উজ্জ্বল করে রাখে—কারণ সেটা তার আপন সম্পত্তি সে মনে করে। তাকে নিয়ে তাব অহমিকা। কিন্তু মানুষ তো থালা, ঘটি, বাটি কিংবা গাভোয়ানের ঘোড়া কিংবা গোয়ালের গরু নয় যে জনককে ব্যক্তি বিশেষের বাধ্য যত্ন করলেই তার পক্ষে কর্তব্যপরায়ণতার যথেষ্ট কৈফিয়ৎ। ভাবগতিক থেকে মনে হয় বাংলা দেশটা যেন লীগ-পরিচালিত বর্তমান বাংলা সরকারের লোভের শাশুণী। যার সঙ্গে লোভের লব্ধ তাব কাছ থেকে মানুষ প্রয়োজন উদ্ধার করে, কিন্তু কখনও তাকে সম্মান করে না। যাকে সম্মান করে না, তার দাবীকে মানুষ যথাসম্ভব ছোট করে রাখে। অবশেষে সে এত সস্তা হয়ে পড়ে

যে তার অসামান্য অভাবে ও যৎসামান্য খরচ করতেও গায়ে বাজে। দুভিক্ষ-বন্যা-প্রপীড়িত মানুষের প্রাণরক্ষা ও মনুষ্যের লজ্জা রক্ষার জন্য বাজেটে কত রকম বরাদ্দ হয়েছে সেদিকে বাজেট-প্রণেতাদের মোটেই লক্ষ্য নাই। অনু নেই, বস্ত্র নেই, বোগে ওষুধ নেই, পানের জল পাওয়া যায় প'ক ছেকে--কিন্তু পুলিশ বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ গাল্ফ স্ট্রিমের মত সম্পূর্ণ চলে যায়। আর আমরা তাদের স্বাচ্ছন্দ্যের রসদ যোগাই, আমাদের অস্ত্রোচ্চ-ক্রিমার খরচের অংশ থেকে।

মাননীয় অর্থ সচিব তাঁর বক্তৃতার উপসংহারে প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের উচ্চিষ্ট বাঁধাবুলির শাফাই দিয়ে আসল তত্ত্ব কথাটা এড়াবার চেষ্টা করেছেন। বর্তমান বাংলা সরকারের রাষ্ট্রনীতির প্রেরণাজিৎ বীর্ঘাভিমান নয়, দেশ-সেবার মনোবৃত্তি নয়, ফলপ্রসূ কর্মশক্তিও নয়। সেটা হচ্ছে ধনের লোভ। জনকল্যাণকারী জনহিতব্রতী বাই-নায়কের জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে একটা মানসিক সঙ্ঘর্ষ থাকে। কিন্তু লোভের সঙ্গে তা থাকতেই পারে না। ধন নির্মম, নৈর্ব্যক্তিক। যে মুগ্ধ সোনার ডিম পাড়ে লোভ যে কেবল তাব ডিমগুলিকেই খুঁড়িতে তোলে তা নয়--মুগ্ধগীটাকে শুদ্ধ জবাই করে। এই প্রকাণ্ড লোভের আওতায় বাংলাব ধনপ্রাণের যেটুকু বাকী আছে সেটুকু বন্ধা করবার জন্য আমাদের জনসাধারণের অর্থ, বস্ত্র, বিদ্যা, বুদ্ধি বন্ধক রেখে কংগ্রেসতন্ত্রাণে জাতিগঠনমূলক পবিত্র-কল্পনায় আমরা কেবলমাত্র কর্মচারীদের পোষাক পবিচ্ছদের এবং চাপবাসীদের উদ্দীপ্ত খরচ যোগাচ্ছি। (A Voice from the Government side : আরও দরকার আছে।)

দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ কৃষি বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ বিশ্লেষণে দেখা যায়--ব্যয় বরাদ্দে ও ফসল উৎপাদনের সঙ্গে কোন যোগাযোগ নাই। এমন কি সবসময় মৃত্তিকার সহিতও সঙ্ঘর্ষ নাই। অধিকাংশ টাকটাই ইট পাটকেল বাবদে ব্যয় হয়েছে। এক কথায় ফসল বৃদ্ধি আন্দোলন সর্বভোজনে ব্যর্থ হয়েছে। সর্বোপরি চাকরীর ও চুবির সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ঘাঁটি সিভিল সাপ্লাই। প্রতি বৎসর এই বিভাগের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ কোটিতে কোটিতে শীকলাব ন্যায় বেড়ে চলেছে। এইভাবে সব বিভাগেই খরচ মোটামুটি বাড়ান হয়েছে। ব্যয় সংকোচের বিশুদ্ধ লক্ষণ কোথাও দেখা যায় নাই। এই সাংঘাতিক ঔদাসীণ্যের মূলে আছে লোভ। সকল প্রকার ভ্রমে ও কর্মে সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত যেখানে শক্তির উৎসব বা পীঠস্থান সেখানে থেকে বচনীতে দাঁড়িয়ে এতকাল আমরা হাঁ করে উপবেশ দিকে তাকিয়ে কাল কাটিয়েছি--উল্লোক থেকে আশ্বাসবাণীও শুনে আসছি; কিন্তু এবার পৃথিবীয়া ধাকার ধৈর্য হাবিয়েছি। বিশ্বব্যাপী কুরুক্ষেত্র খেমে গেছে এক বৎসর আগে; কিন্তু মুদ্রোত্তর শান্তি পূর্ণ এখনও লড়াইয়ের জেব মেটেনি। তবে কি চবম শান্তি, আধাবিক বোমাব সাহায্যে সাবা বাংলা ব্যাপী শমনশ ক্ষেত্র?

Mr. NISHAPATI MAJHI : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, ১৯৪৬-৪৭ সালের বাজেট খাতে দেখা যায় আয় ৪২ কোটি ৫০ লক্ষ ৬০ হাজার টাকা আৰ ব্যয় ৫২ কোটি ২০ লক্ষ ৬৯ হাজার টাকা অর্থ'১৭ ঘাটিতে ১০ কোটি টাকা। এই দশকোটি টাকা ঘাটিতে কেন হয়েছে, এই কথা আজ আলোচনা কববার বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। তবে আমি মনে কবি--এব ধাবা একটা বিষয় দিবালোকের মত স্পষ্ট হয়েছে। বাংলা দেশের গরীব পরিবারে এই বাজেট ঘাটিতে অবস্থা। আজকে প্রত্যেক পরিবারে একশো, দু'শো, পঁচশো, হাজার এইরূপভাবে ঘাটিতে মধ্যে কালান্টিপাত করছে। এই সময় দেশবাসী আশা করেছিল, বাংলার কৃষিশিল্প শিক্ষা যাবতীয় ব্যবস্থা আমাদের বাই দ্বারা সম্ভবপর হবে, এবং বাইকে অবলম্বন করে আমাদের আর্থিক যে জীবনযাত্রা যা বিপন্ন হয়েছে তাব সমাধান কবতে পাব। কিন্তু বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় বাংলা সরকার এদিকে বিশেষভাবে মনোযোগী না হয়ে--অর্থ'১৭ সূচিক্রিত কোন পরিকল্পনাকে সামনে রেখে বাজেট প্রস্তুত না কবায়--আজ বাংলার জনসাধারণ সত্যই হতাশ হবে। আজ বাংলার জনসাধারণ কতদূর বিপন্ন হয়ে উঠেছে বাংলা আজ কতদূর অতিষ্ঠ হয়ে পড়েছে, তা সকলে আমরা মর্মে মর্মে জানি। ১৮৫৫ সালে ঠিক এইরূপভাবে কতিপয় স্বাধীন ইংরেজের প্রবোচনায় দুব্দ মুনাফাখোর, মহাজন এবং জমিদার শ্রেণী আমাদের এই বীভূত জেলায় ভাগলপুর এবং অন্যান্য অঞ্চলে সেই সময় অত্যাচারে লিপ্ত হয়েছিল। তারা তখনকার দিনে এইরূপে মুনাফাখোর লোকের--স্বাধীন লোকের হাত হতে নিস্তার পায় নাই। স্বাধীন লোকের অত্যাচারে কোনরূপে প্রতিবাদান না পেয়ে সাঁওতাল সমাজ--অর্থ'১৭ তরুণ সাঁওতালরা স্থির করেছিল--আমরা জীবনযাত্রা ঐ রকম নগণ্যভাবে নিৰ্বাহ করব না। আমরা এর প্রতিবাদান করব। সেইজন্য সাঁওতাল সমাজ এক প্রচণ্ড বিদ্রোহের সৃষ্টি হয়েছিল তা বাঙ্গালী মাত্রই জানে। এই সাঁওতাল বিদ্রোহের ইতিহাসের কথা কারও অবগিত নাই। তারা এই সব মুনাফাখোর, দুর্নীতিপরায়ণ সরকারী-বেসরকারী কর্মচারীদের ধরে নিয়ে এসে তাদের মুখে ধুতু দিয়ে লাঠিপেটা করে ছেড়ে দিত। আর যারা এইসব সাঁওতালদের শোধন করছে তাদের হাত পা কেটে দিয়ে নদীর জলে ডাসিয়ে দিয়ে বলত--এই তাদের বার আনা, আট আনা আর চার আনা স্ত্রী শোধ দিলাব--ফরকাত ফরকাত--এই বলে...চীৎকার করত। সাঁওতাল সমাজ কেন এইরূপ হয়ে উঠেছিল?

ঠিক আজকের দিনে যেমন জনসাধারণ এক টুকরা কাপড়ের জন্য, সামান্য নুনের জন্য, কেবোগিনের জন্য এবং একটু চিনির জন্য লোকের পায়ের তলায় গড়াগড়ি যাচ্ছে, ঠিক সেদিনও তাবা জনি জায়গার জন্য--এবং যেন তেন শ্রুকারে জীবন যাত্রার কোন উপায় না পেয়ে--এই পথ অবলম্বন কবেছিল। সেই ১৮৫৫ সাল আর আজকে ১৯৪৬ সালের মধ্যে কোন তফাৎ নাই। আমার মনে হয় প্রথমে, শিক্ষাব ব্যয় বরাদ্দ তাব প্রথম নমুনা এই বাজেটে রয়েছে। আমরা দেখছি শিক্ষা বাতে ১১ লক্ষ ৩০ হাজার টাকা Anglo-Indian ও ইউরোপীয়ানদের জন্য ব্যয় হবে। আর উপশীলদের শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়েছে ৬ লক্ষ ৩০ হাজার টাকা--(shame, shame)। কেন এই রকম হয়? আজকে আমি এই প্রশ্ন সকলের কাছে করতে চাই? ১৮৫৫ সালে রাজনীতির যেমন দুর্নীতি ছিল, আজ ১৯৪৬ সালে তাব কি ব্যতিক্রম হয়েছে? কোন ব্যতিক্রম হয় নাই। লীগ মন্ত্রী মণ্ডলী যখন এই মন্ত্রীত্ব গ্রহণ করেছিল--তখন আমরা দবিত্র জনসাধারণ মনে কবেছিলাম আজ বাংলা দেশে অন্ততঃ পক্ষে পচাই মদের হাত থেকে উদ্ধার পাব। পশ্চিম বঙ্গে যাঁবা গিয়েছেন তাঁবা জানেন প্রতি দশ মাইল, পঁচ মাইলের মধ্যে একটা কবে পচাই মদের দোকান আছে। আজ ৬ লক্ষ টাকা সরকার বরাদ্দ কবেছেন তপশীলদের শিক্ষার জন্য। এই পশ্চিমবঙ্গে ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা পচাই মদের লাইসেন্স বাবদ আদায় হয়। জিজ্ঞাসা করি এই লীগ মন্ত্রীদের বড়াই করবার কি আছে যে ৬ লক্ষ টাকা শিক্ষাদানের জন্য ব্যবস্থা কবেছেন? তাদের বড়াই কববার কিছু নাই। এই দুর্নীতির অবজ্ঞাকতা প্রতিবিধানের জন্য দায়ীত্ব নব্য সমাজের, বিপ্লবী সমাজের। তাই বাংলায় বিপ্লব আজ চারিদিক থেকে ছাপিয়ে উঠেছে। আজ রাষ্ট্রের কর্তব্য--এই বিপ্লবের মুখে জাতিকে গড়ে তোলা। কিন্তু জাতি গড়ার এই হচ্ছে শ্রুকৃষ্ট নমুনা। আজ এই ৬ লক্ষ টাকা কতিপয় সুবিধাবাদী স্বার্থবাদী লোক তলে তলে চেষ্টা করবে পকেটস্থ কবতে। বড় বড় ইমারতী বাবদ, বড় বড় পবিকল্পনা বাবদ পকেটস্থ ও হস্তগতও হবে। পল্লীর শিশু শিক্ষা এবং অশিক্ষিতদের শিক্ষাদানের জন্য সত্যিকারের কোন ব্যবস্থা হবে না। দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে বলছি--একটা পবিকল্পনা বীবভূম জেলায় অবৈতনিক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য আড়াই লক্ষ টাকার রচনা হয়েছে। গরীব প্রজাদের থেকে শিক্ষার সেসু আদায় করা হচ্ছে। সেখানে তিন হাজার গ্রামের মধ্যে ৪৭৬টি বিদ্যালয়, তাব মধ্যে ২৮৭টি মাত্র অবৈতনিক বিদ্যালয়--আব বাকীগুলিতে বেতন দিয়ে পড়তে হবে। বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষার দ্বারা তপশীলদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। অনুসন্ধান কবলে দেখবেন--বীবভূমে ৪ লক্ষ হবিজন, তাদের মধ্যে কত জন শিক্ষালাভের সুযোগ পেয়েছে? তাদের ঘব থেকে শিক্ষা সেসু আদায় হবে, পচাই মদ থেকে Licence fee আদায় হবে, অথচ তাদের শিক্ষায় পশ্চাৎপদ কবে রাখা হবে। এই ব্রান্ত নীতির বশবর্তী হয়ে আমরা এই বাজেট অধিবেশন পবিসমাপ্তি কবব।

স্পীকার মহাশয়, দুঃখের বিষয় যে, বীবভূম জেলা থেকে ৩২ লক্ষ মণ চাল কলিকাতা অঞ্চলে আসে, কিন্তু ৩২ লক্ষ টাকা সেখানে হরিজনদের উন্নতিব জন্য ব্যয় হয় না। Shaw Wallace কোম্পানী ৫৬টি কল থেকে চাল কিনে ১১১০ টাকা কবে এব চেয়ে বেশী লাভ কবেন। সেই চাল এখানে উচচ দবে বিক্রয় হয়। তবু কেন সরকারের লোকসান হয় বুঝি না?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The Council meets tomorrow at 1-15 p.m. and it will continue up to 3-15 p.m. So if you insist on half an hour's time the Assemblies has to meet at 3-45 p.m. and continue till 6-45 p.m.; but if you forego 15 minutes I think we can meet at 3-30 p.m. tomorrow. May I know from the Leader of the Opposition if he has any objection?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: No objection from our side.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 3-30 p.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-30 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 1st August, 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

**Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled
under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 1st August, 1946, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. NURUL AMIN) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 203 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

**Implementation of recommendations of Bengal Administration Enquiry
Committee regarding local self-governing bodies.**

***6. Mr. J. A. POWELL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee, 1944-45 (Rowlands Committee), relating to local self-governing bodies and in particular the recommendations relating to—

- (i) appointment of executive officers for all municipalities;
- (ii) establishment of a small inspectorate of local bodies;
- (iii) introduction of provincial town and country planning legislation;
- (iv) strengthening of Calcutta Improvement Trust and extension of its jurisdiction;
- (v) classification and inspection of district boards, recruitment and payment of their officers and increase in their resources; and
- (vi) recommendations with regard to union boards?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the non-acceptance of all or any of these recommendations?

(c) If all or any of the recommendations have been accepted, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

- (i) what action has been taken to give effect to them; and
- (ii) when it is proposed to introduce a Provincial Town and Country Planning Bill as recommended in paragraphs 376-78 of the Bengal Administration Enquiry Committee Report?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a), (b) and (c) (i) A statement furnishing the required information in respect of the recommendations on which decisions have been reached by Government is laid on the Table. The remaining recommendations of the Committee concerning the local self-governing bodies are under consideration.

(ii) The whole question of Town Planning including the question of preparation of necessary legislation for the purpose, is under active consideration.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a), (b) and (c)(i) of starred question No. 6.

Brief recommendation.	Reference to paragraphs of the Report.	Action taken or proposed to be taken.
1. Prevention of excessive delays in making nomination to local bodies.	371—372	It has been decided that it will not be practicable to follow any time-limit in making nominations to local bodies.
2. Right of local technical officers to attend important municipal meetings.	373	The District Officers have been requested to bring to the notice of all local technical officers the provisions of section 547 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, which empower such officers to attend important municipal meetings.
3. Delegation of Divisional Commissioners' power of supervision over municipalities to District Officers.	374	This question has been dropped consequent upon the decision to retain the posts of Divisional Commissioners.
4. Frequent supersession of municipalities in suitable cases.	375	The recommendation has been noted by Government.
5. Encouragement of specialisation amongst Union Board members.	86	A Circular has been issued to the District Officers asking them to introduce in one selected thana in each district as a definite experiment, and in other areas informally, the system regarding sharing of the different portfolios amongst the members of the Union Boards.
6. One Circle Officer per thana . .	398	Steps are being taken in the Chief Minister's (Establishment) Department to recruit the necessary number of Officers.
7. Alteration of unwieldy Union Board boundaries.	400	A Circular has been issued to local officers with necessary instructions in this regard.
8. Abolition of Union Board nomination.	401	Union Board nominations have been abolished as an experimental measure.
9. Abolition of Union Food and Development Committees.	404—405	The Civil Supplies Department have decided that these Committees should continue to remain at least for the purpose of Civil Supplies administration.
10. Union Boards to perform duties which the District Officers may call upon them to do.	406	It is proposed to make necessary amendment in the Bengal Village Self-Government Act for the purpose.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why it has been decided that it will not be practicable to follow any time-limit in making nominations to local bodies?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Datta, to which answer you are referring?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: You will find that in the recommendations that have been referred to on the other side of the page,—item No. 1.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Nomination has been abolished as an experimental measure.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: My question is why it has been decided that it will not be practicable to follow any time-limit in making nominations to local bodies?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. MUNINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for retaining the posts of Divisional Commissioners?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. That has been said as a side reference. The retention of Commissioners is not the principal or main question here.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to item (1) of the statement will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the answer is irrelevant inasmuch as the Rowlands Committee did not recommend any time-limit in making nominations to local bodies but it recommended total abolition?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question. Whether the answer given is relevant or not that is not my business to see. This is the way of answering original questions by a particular Minister in this House.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: The Rowlands Committee has recommended its abolition. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is prepared to accept its recommendation. I refer to item No. 1 of the statement.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Necessary steps are being taken to expedite the matter. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: This is the difficulty with a lengthy question and with a lengthier answer.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: With reference to item (1) of the statement will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee to abolish nomination she is prepared to accept that recommendation?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: The matter is under consideration of Government.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: With reference to item No. 10 of the statement will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of duties that the Union Boards will be called upon to perform at the request of the District Officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to answer, because when the amendment of the Act governing Union Boards will come up before the House, the members will have an opportunity to know that.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I can answer that question. A circular has been issued to the District Officers asking them to introduce in one select-thana in each district as a definite experiment, and in other areas informally, the system regarding sharing of the different portfolios amongst the members of the union boards.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: I want to know what is the nature of duties that the Union Boards will be called upon to perform.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Sir, the point here is and the idea behind the thing is that each Union Board member may be asked to hold a particular portfolio. One member may hold a portfolio of water supply, another member may hold another portfolio—

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I am giving the idea behind.

Mr. SPEAKER: No; you need not.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I have nothing further to add to what I have said.

Mr. HASAN ALI: We see that certain recommendations of the Rowlands Committee have been given effect to. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when those recommendations were given effect to—during the regime of Section 93 administration or during the regime of the present Ministry.

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Section 93.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in many cases Government make delay in issuing the Government order with regard to nominations—in some cases the period exceeds two years? Will he be pleased to give the reason thereof?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Steps have been taken to hurry up the nominations now.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the delay in making nominations occurs at headquarters in the Secretariat or in the districts?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Sometimes reference has got to be made to the District Officers and Divisional Commissioners.

Mr. BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that this delay occurs because the files are sent back to districts for getting suitable names to be recommended by the District Officers?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the time lag, in reference to answers (a), (b) and (c) (i) and (ii), indicated, if any, in arriving at a decision in regard to matters which are merely under consideration and which are under active consideration? In the first paragraph of the answer certain matters are under the consideration of Government and in the second part certain matters are under active consideration of Government. Now, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the time lag indicated, if any, on matters which are under mere consideration and on matters which are under active consideration?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Many of the matters have already been decided and instructions have been issued on many other matters which are under the active consideration of the Government.

Service conditions of clerks and menials of Government offices.

***7. Mr. FAZLUL QADIR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Chief Minister's (Establishment) Department be pleased to state whether there is any difference in rules governing—

(i) leave salary,

(ii) admission to Provident Fund, and

(iii) pensions

between the clerks and menials (Establishment and Contingency) in Government offices under the Government of Bengal?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (a) (i) No.

(ii) Yes. Inferior Government servants are not permitted to subscribe to the General Provident Fund.

(iii) Yes. Contingency menials are employed on the basis of "no work, no pay" and are not entitled to any pension. Establishment menials are entitled to pension but the rules are different from those applicable to clerks.

(b) Clerks belong to superior service while menials belong to inferior service. Better amenities had to be offered to recruits for superior services in order to attract them.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি কেন নিম্নশ্রেণীর Government Servants General Provident Fund subscribe করার অধিকারী নহে ?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Steps have been taken allowing the menial Government servants to subscribe to the Provident Fund.

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় একথা বলেছেন এক questionএর উত্তরে যে leave salary menialরা পায় না, কেন পায় না তার কারণ দিবেন কি ?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: They do not get it in the case of temporary menials.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Sir, when a menial goes on leave he gets the residue of his pay after payment to his substitute—

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Quadir, please put it in a question form.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a menial gets full pay when he goes on leave?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: No, Sir.

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: On a point of information, Sir. From the reply just now given by the Hon'ble Minister that arrangements have been made so that inferior Government servants are permitted to subscribe to the Provident Fund, are we to understand—

Mr. SPEAKER: You can put a supplementary question and not a point of information.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a good number of contingency menials as termed herein have been in continuous service for a number of years?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the precise points of difference between the Pension Rules of the permanent inferior staff and those for superior services?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: In the inferior staff, so far as the jamadars are concerned they get Rs. 10 per month and the menials get Rs. 8 per month. Government have passed orders that they get half of their pay as pension.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will be prepared to consider immediate confirmation of contingency menials who have been in service for more than a year?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: The matter will receive due consideration of the Government.

Mr. HASAN ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the policy behind it that menials will not get leave salary?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been answered.

Mr. DEBENDRA NATH SEN: In answer (a) (ii) it is said that contingency menials are employed on the basis of "no work, no pay" and are not entitled to any pension. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether menials other than contingency menials are allowed to enjoy pension?

Mr. SYED ABDUS SALIM: Oh, yes!

Supersession of certain Union Boards in Midnapore district.

***8. Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware of the order No. LSG.764/45/1M., dated the 5th April, 1946, Local Self-Government, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, April 11, 1946, page 644, extending the period of supersession of the twenty union boards in the district of Midnapore under clause (a) of sub-rule (2) of rule 38 of the Defence of India Rules?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of withdrawing that order and reinstating the old boards without delay?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) Orders for the reconstitution of the boards under rule 38B (3) (b) of the Defence of India Rules with effect from 1st October, 1946, is expected to be issued very shortly.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the desirability of reinstating the old boards instead of going in for the reconstitution of new ones.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: The recommendation is that general elections would have been due if the boards had been functioning normally, and therefore Government passed orders for reconstitution of the boards.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government thought it desirable not to delay reconstitution till October, 1946, and to have it done on a nearer date?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It is not possible now because a lot of formalities have to be observed before the boards are reconstituted and that will take some time. I am telling the honourable member that I have already passed orders for the boards to be reconstituted as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি যখন supersession এর order হয়েছিল এপ্রিল মাসে এমন কি পরিস্থিতি ভরন ছিল যার জন্য supersession order দেওয়ার প্রয়োজন হয়েছিল?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the boards were not superseded in April last, they were superseded long ago. It was only an extension so as to allow the formalities to be observed before the boards were reconstituted.

Mr. AMULYA CHANDRA ADHIKARY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why 20 union boards were suppressed?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: They were not suppressed: They were superseded.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for supersession?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: It was apprehended that the boards' local fund would be employed to permit some of its officers to act in furtherance of any activities prejudicial to public safety, maintenance of public order, efficient prosecution of the war and maintenance of services essential to the community.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Was it merely based on apprehension, as the Hon'ble Minister has stated, that 20 union boards were murdered as a preventive measure and not allowed to function during this period?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I am not responsible for the orders that were passed, so I do not know whether it was on mere apprehension or on more solid foundation.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: While making his answer that on an apprehension that the fund of these boards might have been used for purposes that have been enumerated, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he made any enquiry to ascertain if those were mere allegations to serve as a pretext to murder 20 union boards and were based on very slender foundation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: I did not make any enquiry but I may say this much that the union boards were not murdered as the honourable member puts it. They were simply superseded and Government must have had sufficient reasons to justify the action which they took at that time.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Does the Government consider the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. I do not know when the supersession order was passed, for all that I know it might have been done at a time when some of the members now putting these supplementary questions were supporting Government.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Does the Hon'ble Minister justify the action of the previous Government which did supersede these union boards?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: The question does arise because the Hon'ble Minister has said that Government must have had sufficient reasons for their action. I am asking the Hon'ble Minister whether he is satisfied—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the surmise of the honourable member.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will be prepared to make an enquiry into justification or otherwise—

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that. He has said—he is not prepared.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: All that I know is that the action might have been taken by the party of Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar which was in power at that time.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I might inform the Hon'ble Minister that the party which he referred to during those days were either

locked behind the prison bars or were being hounded out by the Police from place to place when they were struggling for civil liberties of the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question; it is an argument. General discussion of the Budget.

Adjournment Motion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, আমি একটা মূলতুবী প্রস্তাবের নোটিশ দিয়েছিলাম, কিন্তু আপনি তাতে সম্মতি দেন নাই। আপনার কাছে chamber এ গিয়ে বুঝতে পারলাম যে budget session চলেছে বলে আপনি তাতে সম্মতি দেন নাই। আমি জানতে পারলাম যে Government এর পক্ষ এই প্রস্তাবটি সম্বন্ধে এরা কিংবা ওই আগষ্ট আলোচনা করতে বাজী আছে। এমতাবস্থায় আশাকরি আপনি প্রস্তাবটি বিশেষভাবে বিবেচনা করবেন। কারণ এই প্রস্তাবটি ৩২ হাজার চটকল শ্রমিকদের বেকার সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে জড়িত। আশাকরি আপনি এই কথা মনে করে--ইচ্ছা করলেই এই house এ তার প্রতিকার করতে পারেন। এই কথা মনে বেধে আপনি এ সম্বন্ধে পুনর্বিচার করবেন--এবং আজকেই এই প্রস্তাবটি move করতে সম্মতি দিবেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member saw me in my chamber and I explained the reasons for which I had to refuse consent to the adjournment motion of which notice was given by the honourable member. Although I am not bound to explain it here again, for the information of the members I think I should repeat the same reasons here again.

Adjournment motions are tabled for two purposes: One with a view to censure the Ministry and secondly with a view to focus the attention of the House to specific events of urgent public importance. In this case I think I shall be justified to hold that the adjournment motion has been tabled for the second purpose, namely, drawing pointed attention of the House and the Government for withdrawing the order granting certain concessions to certain jute mill workers. The general discussion of the Budget is going on which will be followed by motions for demands. The purpose for which the notice for adjournment motion has been given may well be served by focussing, in course of discussion of the Budget, the attention of the House and of the Ministry to the particular act of the Government giving rise to the cause of the adjournment motion, if the Government is at all responsible for the situation. For, it seems to me that it is the operation of law passed by the Provincial Legislature which is responsible for the unfortunate situation. Non-acceptance of the adjournment motion by the Speaker will be helpful to the House in general and to the Opposition in particular in view of the fact that the time allowed for the general discussion will not be usurped by some other work. In this connection, attention of the House is drawn to a previous ruling of mine when I stated that during the budget session when members will get ample opportunities to ventilate their grievances through general discussion and cut motions the Chair will be reluctant to give consent to adjournment motions unless the Chair is satisfied that the situation is so grave that it cannot brook any delay. In this case while I have got every sympathy with the jute mill workers I have been constrained to refuse consent. The Government, I am told, has given consent to allot one day or half a day for the purpose of discussing this motion but it is entirely up to the Speaker to waive the urgency of the adjournment motion. If the urgency of the adjournment motion is once waived it must be assumed that it is not of such urgent importance which should get preference over other business of this House.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: On a point of privilege, Sir. আপনি এই জরুরী বিষয়টা বাজেট discussion এর সময় কিংবা cut motion উপলক্ষে উপস্থিত করতে বলেছেন। কিন্তু আমার অতীত অভিজ্ঞতা হতে আমি জানি যে বাজেট discussion এর সময় কিংবা cut motion এর সময় এমন অনেক জরুরী বিষয় বলা হয়েছে যে যার কোন উত্তর মাননীয় স্রী মহাশয় দেন নাই।

কালকে দেখেছি কোন মন্ত্রী মহোদয় budget discussionর সময় এখানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন না এবং যাদের উপর নোট নেবার ভার ছিল, আমি পূর্বেই লক্ষ্য করেছি--তারা সেই নোট পর্যন্ত ভালভাবে নেন না। এই হচ্ছে budgetর বিষয়। গত ১২ই জুলাই দুটি short notice question দিয়েছিলাম তা অত্যন্ত জরুরী। আমি দেখেছি অনেকে ৪১৫ দিন আগে short notice question দিয়ে তার answer পায়। কিন্তু আমি গত ১২ই জুলাই notice দিয়ে আজ পয়লা আগষ্ট পর্যন্ত তার উত্তর পাচ্ছি না। এ সম্বন্ধে আমি পূর্বেও একদিন আপনার মনোযোগ আকর্ষণ করেছিলাম, কিন্তু তাতে আপনার বিশেষ কোন সহানুভূতি পাইনি।

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not correct. I think I asked the honourable member to see me in my chamber with regard to his short-notice question. I perfectly remember that.

Mr. FAZLUL QUADIR: On a point of order, Sir.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: I am on a point of privilege.

The Hon'ble Mr. MOHAMMED ALI: Can he continue to make a speech, or rather inflict a speech on the House at this stage.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: One more point, Sir, and I have finished. তাবপব Adjournment motion সম্বন্ধে অতীতে দেখেছি যে অনেক সময় urgency prove করতে পারলে দেওয়া হত কিন্তু আপনি যে ruling দিলেন তাতে Adjournment motion move করার সুযোগ পাইব না।

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as Dr. Banerji's point of privilege is concerned I think his purpose may be served by tabling a short-notice question.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: On a point of privilege Sir, আমি আর একটি motion খাদ্য সম্বন্ধে দিয়াছিলাম তাতেও আপনার সম্মতি পাই নাই। জ্যোতি বোস political prisoners release সম্বন্ধে একটি motion দিয়েছিলেন, তাতেও আপনার সম্মতি পাইনি। আমরা দেখেছি Governmentর কাছ থেকে আমাদের কোন প্রতিকারের পথ রইল না। এমন অবস্থায় speaker মহোদয়কে বিশেষ অনুবোধ করছি যাতে আমাদের privilege বক্ষা হয় ও আমরা Governmentর কাছ থেকে উত্তর পাই তাব ব্যবস্থা কববেন। আমার short notice questionএর উত্তর চাই এবং adjournment motion তুলবার সুযোগ দিবেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not up to me to say that, but I shall pass it on to the Hon'ble Minister in charge. I do not see him here just now. If he comes to the House today and if you give notice I shall talk to him and I think he will not fail to answer the question within a day or two.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI: আমি কি দুই এক দিনের মধ্যে answer পাব? তাতেও আমার purpose served হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know that.

Dr. SURENDRA CHANDRA BANERJI: তবে কি আপনি বলতে চান যে আমাদের privilege সংবন্ধিত হবার উপায় নাই এবং Budget আলোচনায় মধ্যে কোন প্রশ্নের answer পাব না।

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said I shall help you in getting the answer but I cannot force the Minister to give an answer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, you are anxious to help the honourable members. Are the Ministers prepared to help you in giving an answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not for me to say. I cannot force the Minister. Yes, general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আমি আপনার কাছে জানতে চাই যখন General Budget discussion চলছে সেই সময় Minister এমন order দিলেন কেন যার জন্য ৩০ হাজার Jute workers আজ unemployed হয়েছে? তার কোন ব্যবস্থা তিনি করেন নাই কেন?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

বৎসরের পর বৎসর আসে, বৎসর যায়, মস্খিমগুল আসে মস্খিমগুল যায়, বাঙ্গালা পৰিষদের air conditioned কামরায় বসে বাঙ্গলার গণপ্ৰতিনিধিরা বজেট বিতৰ্কের অভিনয় করেন। কেউ বলেন চমৎকার বাজেট, থাশা; কেউ বলেন প্ৰতীক্ৰীয়শীল হৃদয়হীনের তৈরী: Air conditioned Assembly Hallএবাইবে বিশাল বাঙ্গলা দেশ। সেখানে ঘুরে বেড়ায় ৩৫ লক্ষ দুৰ্ভিক্ষ-মরা মানুষের ছায়া। আকাশে বাতাসে ধূনিত হয় সৰ্ব্ব্ব্ব হারা কৃষকের দুঃখ বেদনার কাহিনী:

বাঙ্গলার চাষীর গড়পড়তা আয় বাৰ্ষিক ৪৩ টাকা। জীবনের মেয়াদ ২৫২৬ বৎসর। ঋণের পরিমাণ Banking Enquiry Committee'র মতে ১৯৩১ সনে ১০০ কোটি টাকা। ৬ কোটি বাঙ্গালীর খাদ্যের জন্য চালের দরকার ২৭ কোটি মণ; বাঙ্গলায় চাল উৎপাদ হয় ২৩ কোটি মণ। ফলে ১ কোটি বাঙ্গালীকে হয় উপোস করতে হয়, নতুবা খেতে হয় আদপেটা। নামকাওয়াস্তে লিখতে পড়তে জানে বাঙ্গলার শতকরা ১১ জন লোক। অথচ লোকসংখ্যা বেড়েই চলেছে—৩০ বৎসরে বাঙ্গালী শতকরা ২০ জন বেড়েছে। এহেন দেশের ৬ কোটি লোকের জন্য বাৰ্ষিক ৫২ কোটি টাকা ব্যয়-ববাদের হিসেব তৈরী কবছি আমরা। এ সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত আলোচনা আপে যে অঞ্চলের প্ৰতিনিধি হয়ে এসেছি সেদিকে একটু দৃষ্টিপাত করা যাক।

ছোট ফেণী মহকুমা আমাদের নিৰ্ব্বাচকমণ্ডলী। ৫ লক্ষ ৪৩ হাজাৰ লোকের বসতি এখানে। দিনগুলো এদের কেটে যাচ্ছিল এক বকম। এলো সৰ্ব্ব্বগ্রামী সৰ্ব্ব্ববিধংসী যুদ্ধ। যুদ্ধকে ফেণীর লোক দেখেছে মুখোমুখী। ছোট মহকুমা শহর জাপানী বোমার যা ধেয়েছে, একবার নয়, দুবার নয়, ১১ বার। ফলে বহু লোক ঘর বাড়ী হারিয়েছে, বহুলোক নিহত হয়েছে, বহু লোক হয়েছে গুরুতবভাবে আহত, বিকলাঙ্গ। সামবিক বিভাগের তালিদি এলো—ফেণীকে যুদ্ধের ঘাঁটি করতে হবে। চটগ্রামের পতন হলে শেষ চেষ্টা করতে হবে ফেণীতে দাঁড়িয়ে। তৈরী হলো তিন তিনটি এবোড্রোম, শত শত মিলিটারী ছাউনি। একদিন, দুদিন, তিন দিনের নোটিশে খালি করা হলো ৯২টি গ্রাম। ১ লক্ষের মত লোক ঘববাড়ী ছেড়ে, স্বাবব, অস্থাবব সম্পত্তি ছেড়ে, ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্য ছেড়ে পথে এসে দাঁড়ালো। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এলো বধনা নীতি (denial policy), বাদ্য্যভাব, চোবাবাজাব, military নিৰ্ব্বাণতন, ঘুষের বাজা। ফেণীবাগীস দুঃখ-বেদনার পাত্র পূর্ণ হয়ে গেল।

যুদ্ধ আজ শেষ হয়েছে। কিন্তু ফেণীর ১ লক্ষের মত evacuee যুদ্ধের প্ৰয়োজনে যাদের উজাড় করা হয়েছিল, তাদের উপব জুহুমের প্ৰতিকার হয়নি এখনো। উপযুক্ত ক্ষতিপূরণ এখনও তবাব পায় নি। অনেকেই ফিরে পাচ্ছে না তাদের পৈত্ৰিক বাসভিটা। তাদের ঘব বাড়ী জমি বিকৃত করা হয়েছিল সামবিক প্ৰয়োজনে। এখনও তাব প্ৰতিকার হলো না। কান্ধা তাদের আকাশ ঢুঁয়েছে। কিন্তু সেদিকে তাকানাব অবগব নেই আজ কারব।

সুযোগ পেয়ে পাৰ্ব্ববর্ধী ত্ৰিপুবা বাজ্যের আমলাবাও অত্যাচারের পবখ কবে নিয়েছে এক চোটি। ফেণীর হাজাব হাজাব লোকের জমী বয়েছে স্বাধীন ত্ৰিপুবায়। ফবমান জাবী হ'লো—হাল সনের খাজনা না দিয়ে ত্ৰিপুবা বাজ্যের জমীতে ধান কাটিতে পাববে না কেউ। বেড়ে গেল খাজনার হার, ধার্ম্য হ'লো অতিবিক্ত মাণ্ডল,—ধানের মাণ্ডল, ঘাসের মাণ্ডল, গাছ কাটার মাণ্ডল।

ফেণীতে চাবটি নদী,—মুচনী, গতিয়া, জিলনিয়া, চোটি ফেণী। বাঁধের অভাবে, সংস্কারের অভাবে, বেলওয়ে লাইনের কাবণে নদীগুলোর কবে গেছে জলনিকাশের ক্ষমতা। এদিকে ত্ৰিপুবা বাজ্যের পিলাক ঢেবাব পাড কেটে দেওয়া তাব জল গডায় ফেণীর উপব দিয়ে। ফলে প্ৰতি বৎসর আসে বন্যা। ৮ হাজাৰ একর জমিব নষ্ট হয় ধান, ২ হাজাব একর জমীব আঁক। বাস্তাঘাটের ক্ষতি নিয়ে বৎসরে ক্ষতি হয় ১০ লক্ষ টাকাব মত। প্ৰতিবাবের মত এবাবও এসেছে বন্যা। আউশ ধান সম্পূর্ণ নষ্ট হয়েছে। আমনের জানা গেছে ভেসে। নষ্ট হয়েছে গরুর ধান্দ্য। এবাবকার ক্ষতি ৫০ লক্ষের কম হবে না। প্ৰকৃতিব কপ ভয়ঙ্কব। তাব চেয়েও ভয়ঙ্কবরূপে দেখা দেয়—চোবা বাজাব, মুনাফা-খোব, হুঘ-খোব, সবকাবী কর্ণচাবীদের দল।

সুবা বাঙ্গলার বজেট বিতৰ্ক আবন্ত কবতে হবে এই পটভূমিব উপব নজব রেখে। বাঙ্গলার সৰ্ব্ব্বকনিষ্ঠ অর্থ-সচিব আজ যে বজেট উপস্থিত কবেছেন, শুক্লতেই বলে রাধা ভালো, তিনি এর জনক হ'লেও, এর জন্ম ৯৩ ধারার মাতৃগর্ভে। (Cheers.) আমাদের “খোকা” অর্থ-সচিবের দাবী—বাজেটে তিনি চেষ্টা কবেছেন, বাঙ্গলার জনগণের অর্থ-নৈতিক মান বাড়িয়ে দিতে, তাঁব লক্ষ্য ছিল গণমঙ্গল।

“বেষ্টনী” ব্যবস্থার যুগ থেকে বাঙ্গলার জনসাধারণ কেন্দ্ৰীয় ববাদ থেকে উনুয়নের জন্য উপযুক্ত অর্থ দাবী করে এসেছে। বাঙ্গলার অর্থ-সচিব মাননীয় মোহাম্মদ আলী ভাগ্যবান ব্যক্তি স্বীকার কবতেই হবে। বাঙ্গলার উনুয়নের জন্য ১২ কোটি টাকা তিনি পেয়েছেন কেন্দ্ৰীয় সরকার থেকে। বাঙ্গলা সরকারের সকল বিভাগে

জনকল্যাণকর পরিকল্পনার সুত্রপাত করবার সুযোগ তাঁর হয়েছে। বিদ্যুৎকরণ, জনসেচ, হাসপাতাল তৈরী, পশু-পুজনন গবেষণা, পাটের বীজ উৎপাদন থেকে আরম্ভ করে গুটি পোকের চাষ পর্যন্ত যেসব আয়োজন এবারকাল বজেটে দেখতে পাচ্ছি, ইতিপূর্বে তাহা দেখবার সুযোগ আমাদের হয়নি। কিন্তু ভুললে চলবে না এবারকার বজেট তৈরী হয়েছে ৯১ ধারাব আমলে। এজন্য দেখতে পাই আমলাতান্ত্রিক আবহাওয়ার ফাঁকে ফাঁকে বজেটে ঝক্ ঝক্ করছে মাঝে মাঝে গণতান্ত্রিক প্রবণতা, কিন্তু তা পুরোপুরি গণতান্ত্রিকভাবে রূপায়িত হয়ে উঠতে পারেনি। হয়ত বর্তমান অবস্থায় কারুর পক্ষে সেটা কবা সম্ভব হতো না। সুতরাং অর্ধ-সচিব মহাশয় আমাদের ধন্যবাদ পেতে পারেন তাঁর সাধু প্রচেষ্টার জন্য।

বজেটের একটি সম্পর্কে বলতে গেলে বলতে হয় এখানেও মাথা উঁচু করে আছে সেই সার্বকীয় আমলাতান্ত্রিক মনোভাব। দূরত্বিক পীড়িত বান্দ্রানাকেও বহন করতে হচ্ছে হাতীঘর খোঁবাক। staff ইত্যাদি নিয়ে গভর্ণমেন্টের খরচ ১০ লক্ষ ৭৬ হাজার, রাইটার্স বিল্ডিংএব দপ্তরে যাচ্ছে ৪৫ লক্ষ ৭৪ হাজার, এক চীফ-মিনিষ্টারের ডিপার্টমেন্টে নিচ্ছে ১১ লক্ষ ৩১ হাজার। ২৬ জন অফিসারের জন্য ৪ লক্ষ ১৭ হাজার।

পাঁচ জন কমিশনার নিচ্ছেন ৫ লক্ষ ২৬ হাজার। অফিসারদের জীপ গাড়ীর জন্য ব্যয় হবে ২১ লক্ষ ২৮ হাজার। রাইটার্স বিল্ডিংএ air condition করবার খরচ ২ লক্ষ। দাঙ্গিলিংএ সোশ্যালিষ্ট লাইট সাহেবের চাকরের ঘর ও খোঁড়ার আশ্রয়ালের জন্য ৬৫ হাজার।

যে দেশে এক কোটির মত লোক অর্ধাহারে থাকে, যেখানে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের বেতন মাসিক ১০ টাকা, চাপরাশিরা পায় ১৫২০ টাকা, সে দেশে এক একজন অফিসার ৪ হাজার টাকা বেতন নেবেন, অফিসারদের জন্য অফিস air condition করা হবে, এব চয়ে নিষ্ঠুরতা আর কি হতে পারে? (Cheers.)

গভর্ণমেন্ট ও সিভিলিয়ানদের মাহিনার উপর এসেছলীর হাত নেই, কিন্তু নিত্য নুতন যে সব অফিসার সিভিল সাপ্লাই ও অন্যান্য বিভাগে নেওয়া হচ্ছে তাব উপর আমাদের কর্তৃত্ব আছে নিশ্চয়ই। অন্য বিভাগের কথা ভেঙে দিই। দূরত্বিক ঠাতে যে টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে সেখান থেকেও বেশী ভাগ টাকা যাচ্ছে অফিসারদের জন্য। তাব উপর চোরাবাজারী মুনাফাখোঁবদের অংশ তো আছেই। দূরত্বিক ববান্দের টাকা থেকে কত টাকা দূরত্বিক পীড়িতেরা পাচ্ছে খেঁজ করতে হলে অনুবীক্ষণের দবকাব হবে। (Cheers.)

যেখানে সিভিল ওয়ার্কস পাচ্ছে ৬ কোটি ৩৯ লক্ষ, পুলিশের জন্য ধরা হয়েছে ৩ কোটি ৬৫ লক্ষ; বহু মিলিটারি সিভিল সাপ্লাই যেখানে পাচ্ছে ১০ কোটি সেখানে শিক্ষা বিভাগের কপালে জুড়েছে মাত্র ৩ কোটি ৪৭ লক্ষ, জনস্বাস্থ্য ১ কোটি ৮৯ লক্ষ, কৃষি ৩ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষ, সমবায় ২৭ লক্ষ, পশু-চিকিৎসা ১৪ লক্ষ, শিল্প ৭১ লক্ষ,—এই হিসেব থেকেই বুঝা যাবে আমলাতান্ত্রিক আবহাওয়ার পরিবর্তন হতে এখনও বহু দিন দেবী।

ভারত সরকারের সহযোগিতায় পুলিশের যান্ত্রিক যানবাহন, বেতাব ব্যবস্থা ও সাজ সজ্জার জন্য ১ কোটি টাকা অতিবিভক্ত খরচের আয়োজন হয়েছে। এই ব্যাপারে কংগ্রেস প্রদেশগুলো অগ্রণী হয়েছে। বাঙালী সরকার অমুসরণ কবছেন কংগ্রেস প্রদেশের স্বদেশ প্রেমিক জননেতাদের।

বজেটে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার প্রতি উপেক্ষা দেখান হয়েছে। লক্ষাধিক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকদের জন্য ২০ লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুরী কাটা যায়ে নুনের ছিটা বলে মনে হবে। ছাত্রদের জন্য যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক বৃত্তির ব্যবস্থা হয় নি। আয়োজন নাই ছাত্রদের হোস্টেলের। অবৈতনিক আবশ্যিক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা, মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষার প্রসার, মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার সংস্কার, মুসলিম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠা—এসব বিষয়ের আলোচনা এখানে নাই বা করলাম। বাঙালীর মত দরিদ্র প্রদেশের বহু সমস্যার সমাধান হতে পারতো সমবায় বিভাগের ভিতর দিয়ে। মুনাফাখোরি, চোরাবাজারী ও শত রকম গোঁঘ থেকে চাষীদের রক্ষা করবার জন্য যে বিভাগ সবচেয়ে বেশী কার্যকরী হতে পারে তাব জন্য ২৭ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ—এ অদুষ্টির উপহাস ছাড়া আর কি হতে পারে।

বজেটে আর একটি বিষয় লক্ষ্য করা যায় যে এতে পুণ্ড্রবঙ্গের প্রতি দেখান হয়েছে উপেক্ষা। বালুলায় সেচের ব্যবস্থা খুব কমই হয়েছে। এবার এদিকে সবকারের দৃষ্টি পড়েছে এ স্বসংবাদ; কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় পুণ্ড্রবঙ্গের ভাগ্য এখানেও যে ভিন্নিবে সেই ভিন্নিবে। বিদ্যুৎকরণ আরম্ভ হয়েছে বালুলায়—সুখের কথা। ২,২০০ বর্গ মাইল জুড়ে গৌরীপুর, বর্ধমান, কৃষ্ণনগর চক্রে বিদ্যুৎকরণ হবে। যক্ষা হাসপাতাল, মেডিকেল কলেজ থেকে পশু প্রজনন পর্যন্ত বহু কিছু হচ্ছে পশ্চিম বঙ্গে। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের উন্নয়ন হউক সুখের বিষয়। কিন্তু পুণ্ড্রবঙ্গ কেন হবে উপেক্ষিত? পুণ্ড্রবঙ্গের দিকেও গভর্ণমেন্টকে নজর দিতে হবে।

তারপর চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত উঠিয়ে দেওয়া, বন্দী অকলেব উন্নয়ন, শ্রমিক ও বেকার সমস্যা, কব বেতনের কর্তৃত্বাধী ও ভাগ চাষীদের সমস্যা—এসব দিকে বজেটে বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দেওয়া হয়নি।

এবারকার বাজেট ঘাটতি বাজেট, তবে একটি বিষয়ে বাজেটের শৃঙ্খলা করা যায়। এতে নতুন ট্যাক্সের বিশেষ উপদ্রব নেই। শুধু পেট্রোলের ট্যাক্স বাড়ানো হয়েছে গ্যালনে ১/৬ পাই করে। বলা হয়েছে এ ট্যাক্স বহন করতে হবে না গরীবকে। পেট্রোল ট্যাক্স বাড়লে মোটর ভাড়া গরীবের উপর চাপবে কি না তা অবশ্য ভাববার বিষয়।

অর্থ সচিবকে ধন্যবাদ—জ্ঞানে বিদ্যায় মহীয়ান, স্বাস্থ্য সম্পদে গবীয়াণ, আনন্দময় শাস্তিময় নুতন বাঙ্গলা গড়বার স্বপ্ন দেখছেন তিনিও। সাম্রাজ্যবাদের অবসান, জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদ, মুনাফাখোবীর অবসান, আমলা-তান্ত্রিক নীতির অবসান না হলে বাস্তবে রূপায়িত হতে পাবেনা আমাদের স্বপ্ন। বর্ধমান, কাশিমাজার ও অন্য গাভজন.....

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Mr. SPEAKER: You must stop now; you have reached the time-limit.

Mr. MUHAMMAD HABIBULLAH CHOWDHURY: May I have two minutes more, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret I cannot allow any more time because I have got a host of speakers and I have got to accommodate all of them.

Mr. BIJOY KRISHNA SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, এবারকার বাজেট অতীব নৈরাশাজনক। জনসাধারণের অর্থের শোচনীয় অপচয় ইহার প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য। জাতি-গঠন ও দেশ-সেবার স্ফূর্তি ইহাতে আদৌ লক্ষিত হয় না। আশ্রিত প্রতিপালনের অপকৌশল এবং সর্বত্র বেশ প্রকটিত হইয়াছে।

দশ কোটি টাকা বাটতি বাজেটে এমন কোন scheme নাই যাহাতে বিকল্পকৰ বা জনসাধারণের সমর্থন লাভ করিতে পারে। অর্থের অপচয়ে আমলাতন্ত্রের কাঠামোকে স্ফূট করিবার অপচেষ্টা এই বাজেটের সর্বত্র বিদ্যমান।

Procurement বাতে ২ কোটি টাকা বাটতি দেখা যায়। এই বাটতির কোন যুক্তিসঙ্গত কারণ নাই। গভর্ণ-মেন্টের কর্মচারীদের অযোগ্যতা ও অসাধুতাই ইহার মূলীভূত কারণ। তাছাড়া chief agentদের মাফক্য় খাদ্যদ্রব্য ক্রয় করার নীতিও এই বাটতির অন্যতম কারণ। গুদামে প্রুতি বৎসর মোট খাদ্যের এক পার্সেন্টেরও বেশী খাদ্যশস্য নষ্ট হয়। এ বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। এই সমস্ত কারণে procurementএ দুই কোটি টাকা বাটতি পড়িয়াছে। নচেৎ অল্পমূল্যে ধান্য ও চাউল ক্রয় করিয়া অধিক মূল্যে গভর্ণমেন্ট তাহা বিক্রয় করিয়া থাকেন। এমনভাবে ইহার কোন যুক্তিসঙ্গত কারণ থাকিতে পারে না।

Boat constructionএ দেড় কোটি টাকা বাটতির প্রধান কারণ অসাধু সরকারী কর্মচারিগণ ও কন্সট্রাক্টরগণ একত্রে মিলিয়া পুঙ্খ চুবি করিয়াছেন। নচেৎ একপ বাটতি কখনও সম্ভব নয়।

বর্তমান বাজেটে দেখা যায় Secretariatএ air conditioningএর ব্যবস্থার জন্য ২ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। যাহা দ্বা দ্বিদিনের পব দিন, মাসের পর মাস, শীতভাপে, রৌদ্র-বৃষ্টিতে ভিজিয়া মাথাব ঘাম পায় ফেলিয়া অতিকষ্টে পরশা উপার্জন করিতেছে—তাহাদের অর্থ নিয়ে তাহাদের চাকরদের আবাসের ব্যবস্থা করিবার জন্য দুই লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় হইবে ইহার চেয়ে লজ্জার কথা আর কি থাকিতে পারে। এটা কেবল শোতা পায় আমাদের মত পরাধীন দেশে। কিন্তু আর বেশী দিন এই রাজত্ব চলিবে না—কড়ায়-গুণ্ডায় এবং হিসাব দিতে হইবে।

ম্যালেরিয়া বাংলা দেশকে উজাড় করে দিল। কত নগর ও গ্রামকে অব্যো পরিণত করেছে। Prof. A. V. Hill, Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, ইহাকে ভারতের public enemy No. 1 নাম দিয়েছেন এবং দৃষ্ট করিয়া বলিয়াছেন—এদেশে এমন কোন হাসপাতাল নাই যেখানে এত বড় শত্রুর বিরুদ্ধে লড়িবার জন্য Research Laboratory আছে। আর সেইখানে ম্যালেরিয়া বিভাজনের জন্য Government নাকি মাত্র ৩ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন।

Water supplyএর জন্য মাত্র ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা ধার্য হইয়াছে। বাংলায় পানীয় জলের যেমন অভাব, তাহাতে প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় এই টাকা অত্যন্ত কম।

General Administration বাতে গভর্ণমেন্ট চার শত জীপ গাড়ি ও কয়েকখানা এরোপ্লেনের ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। এখানে জিজ্ঞাস্য Government কি এমন কিছু দেখিতে পেয়েছেন যে, এই জীপ গাড়ি ও এরোপ্লেন দেবার জন্য officialদের travellingএ খরচ কম হয়েছে? তা যদি না হয়ে থাকে তাহলে সরকারী কর্মচারীদের travellingএর জন্য এই সমস্ত জীপগাড়ি প্রভৃতি দেওয়ার কি অর্থ হ্রস্ত পাবে।

Education headএ দেখা যায় ছাত্রাবাসের কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। বর্তমানে বহু ছাত্র-ছাত্রী কলিকাতায় এসে মেশ-হোষ্টেলে স্থান না পাইয়া হতাশ হইয়া ফিবিয়া যাইতেছে। তাহাদের জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা না করা অববেচনার কাজ হইয়াছে। তবে সংবাদপত্রে দেখা গেল মুসলীম ছাত্রদের জন্য একটি বড় বাড়ী তৈরি করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু তপশীল ও বর্ণহিন্দু ছাত্রদের জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট কোন ব্যবস্থা কবিতেছেন কিনা তাহা আজ পর্যন্ত জানিতে পারি নাই।

Grow More Food Campaignএর দ্বারা আমাদের দেশে যে কতটা কি উপকার হইয়াছে তাহা জনসাধারণ আজও উপলব্ধি করিতে পারে নাই। এই schemeএ গভর্ণমেন্ট একটা মোটা টাকা অপব্যয় কবিয়াছেন। কিন্তু দেখা যায় যুদ্ধের মধ্যে বিলাতে এই Grow More Food Campaignএ প্রায় ৭০ পারসেন্ট খাদ্যশস্য বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে কত পারসেন্ট বাড়িয়াছে তাহা হিসাব গভর্ণমেন্ট দিতে পারিবেন কি? এই ব্যবস্থায় গভর্ণমেন্ট এত টাকা ব্যয় না করে irrigationএর জন্য ব্যয় কবিলে অনেক উপকার হইত--দেশের খাদ্য-সমস্যাও মিটিত।

Development schemeএ ১২ কোটি টাকা কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেন্ট দিতে স্বীকার কবিয়াছেন। তাহা দিয়া সংগঠন কার্য করিতে গভর্ণমেন্ট স্থির কবিয়াছেন। কিন্তু বাংলা সরকারের নিজস্ব তবিল হইতে কোন টাকার ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। কেন্দ্রে Interim Government প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইলে যদি ভবিষ্যতে কোন অর্থ মত্ব না করেন, তবে এই scheme আঁতুড়েই নষ্ট হইবে, তার কি ব্যবস্থা বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্ট কবিয়াছেন?

Industry খাতে দেখা যায় কৃষকদিগের উপশিল্প শিক্ষাদানের কোনই ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। জাপানে দেখা যায় শতকরা ৯০ জন কৃষক উপশিল্প দ্বারা অবসর সময়ে অর্থোপার্জন করেন। একপ ব্যবস্থা আমাদের দেশে হইলেও কৃষকদিগের যথেষ্ট উন্নতি হইবে। তাহা অবসর সময় গ্রহণ করে না কাটাওয়া অনেক টাকা আয় করিতে পারিবেন। এদেশের বিধবাবা সচরাচর পরমুখাপেক্ষী। তাহাদিগের জন্যও শিল্পশিক্ষাদানের ব্যবস্থা হওয়া প্রয়োজন। তাহা হইলে খাদ্যশস্যের অনেক অভাব মিটে যাইতে পারে। Middle class unemployment scheme আগে যেটা ছিল--সুনিতে পাই Government নাকি সেটা তুলিয়া দিবেন। সেটা তুলিয়া দিলে দেশে আরও unemployment বাড়িয়া যাইবে।

Mr. RUPNARAYAN ROY : গত কয়েকদিন এই পবিত্রের আলোচনা শুনিয়া বিস্মিত ও গুরু হইয়াছি। পূর্ব দিন আগে আইন সভায় এই ধরনের আলোচনা হইত কি না জানি না। আমি সভ্যদের কিংবা মাননীয় মন্ত্রীদেব ভাষায় কথা বলিতেছি না। আমি বুঝিতেছি বাহিরে যে জগৎ আছে, যে কোটি কোটি মানুষ আছে তাহাদের হইতে এই পরিষদ কত তফাৎ। কি অর্থ-মন্ত্রী--কি বিবোধী দলের সদস্য, কেহই এই মোটা কথাটার জবাব দিচ্ছেন না। মাত্র তিন বৎসরের মধ্যেই বাংলায় এমন দুইটি দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিল কেন? তাহা প্রতিকার কি?

আমি দিনাজপুর হইতে আসিয়াছি। দিনাজপুর বাড়তি এলাকা। কিন্তু সেখানেও যে কৃষক অনাহারে দিন কাটায়, তাহা কোন সম্ভব কারণ আছে কি?

বাজেটে ফসল ফলাইবার কথা বলা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু এই সকল ফসল বাড়ানোর পথে আজ সবচেয়ে বড় অন্তরায় কে? জমিদার ও বড় বড় জোতদার। সমগ্র উত্তর বঙ্গ আধিমারের দেশ। জমিদার-জোতদার, তাহাদের খুসীমত জমি বিলি করে, যাহাকে যখন খুসী জমিচ্যুত করে, এমনকি ফসলের জমি পতিত রাখে। তবুও আধভাগে বন্দোবস্ত দিতে রাজী হয় না। ফসলের জমি হইতে ভাগ-চাষীকে উৎখাত কবিতো পিছুপাও হয় না। এই অবস্থার চলিতে থাকিলে বাংলায় কোনদিন ফসল বাড়িবে কি?

Government নিজেরও ত কম জমি ফেলিয়া রাখেন নাই। রেলের লাইনের ধার দিয়া খাসমহলের কত হাজার হাজার একর জমি পতিত পড়িয়াছে। তাহার এক কণাও তাঁহারা কৃষকের হাতে দিয়াছেন কি? কৃষকের জমির ক্ষুধা না মিটাইয়া ফসল বাড়ান যায় না। বীজ আর সার ও বলদের জন্য টাকা খরচ করা যায়, বড় বড় দপ্তর সাজান যায়, লালদীঘি হইতে সুরুর করিয়া সুরুর মফঃস্বল পর্যন্ত লালফিতার পাণ্ডা তৈরী করা যায়,--কিন্তু তাহা নিছক প্রচারণা ও বিজ্ঞাপন। সরকারী বীজে চারা হয় না, সরকারী সাবো থাকে নাই, পাঞ্জাবের সরকারী বলদের কথা ধাম্পাধাম্পী। জমিদার-জোতদারের হাত হইতে জমি কৃষককে দিলে কৃষক বীজ রাধিতে পারে, পশুপালন করিতে পারে।

(Mr. Abu Taiyab Mazharul Haque was crossing between Mr. Speaker and Mr. Rup Narayan Roy.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mazharul Haque, yesterday I drew the attention of the House that no member should cross between the Speaker and the member addressing the Speaker. But you have committed the same mistake now.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: I am so sorry.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think in future it will not be necessary to bring it to the notice of the members again.

Mr. ABU TAIYAB MAZHARUL HAQUE: I shall not repeat it. ✓

Mr. RUPNARAYAN ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আর সবকাবেব সাব বে কাজে লাগিতে পারে তাহাও কৃষক বুঝিতে পারিবে। আর কৃষক ফসল কেনই বা বাড়াইবে? কাহার জন্য বাড়াইবে। বাজেট বস্তুতঃ দেবিলাম ধান চাউলের ক্রয়-বিক্রয়ে সরকারেব দুই কোটি টাকাৰ উপৰ লোকসান হইবে। অথচ আমাৰ জেলা দিনাজপুৰে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টেৰ এজেন্টিব সাড়ে সাত টাকা হইতে দশ টাকা মণে চাউল ক্রয় কৰে। আব ঐ চাউল জনসাধাৰণেৰ নিকট ১৫৭ টাকা মণ দৰে বিক্রয় কৰা হয়। কমপক্ষে মণপ্রতি ৫৭ টাকা মুনাফা কৰে। এই টাকা কাহার পকেটে যায়? গত বছৰ দিনাজপুৰে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট ৩৬ লক্ষ মণ ধান-চাউল ক্রয় কৰিয়াছেন। তাঁহাৰা কৃষকেৰ দুই কোটি টাকা কাহার পকেটে তুলিয়া দিয়াছেন? তাহাৰ তদন্ত কৰা দরকাৰ। ইং ছাড়া চোৱা কাৰবাৰীৰ দল এবাৰ সেই ১০৭ টাকাব চাউল ৩০৪০৭ টাকায় বিক্রী কৰিতেছে। কেবল ধান চাউল নয়, পাট বা তামাকেৰ দৰও কি কৃষক পায়? কৃষকেৰ ঘৰ হইতে যে পাট ৭৭ টাকা হইতে ১০৭ টাকায় ক্রয় কৰা হয়, পাটকেৰ মালিকৰা তাহাতে চট তৈয়াৰী কৰিয়া ১০০৭ টাবাৰ বিক্রী কৰে। অথচ, নিৰ্ভৰ্য্য এই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এখনও পাটেৰ দৰ বাহাতে উঠুতে না ওঠে তাহাৰ জন্য ঘডয়ন্ত কৰিতেছেন। আমাৰা হিয়াৰ কৰিয়া দেখাইতে পারি, চোৱা কাৰবাৰী মুনাফাখোৰেব হাত হইতে কৃষকেৰা ফসল বক্ষা কৰিতে পারিলে, নাযাৰ দৰে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে উহাৰ ক্রয়-বিক্রয় হাতে লইলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টেৰ ১৫ কোটি টাকা আয় হইতে পাবে। এই বাজেটে এ সম্পৰ্কে একাটি কথাও নাই। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টকে আমাৰা একাটি বিষয়ে স্পষ্ট কথা বলিতে চাই। দুৰ্ভিক্ষ ডাকিয়া আনিবাব পৰ, কৃষকক দুঃখেৰ পৰিণত কৰিবাব পৰ কয়েক কোটি টাকা ধৰণাতী দান কৰিবাব নীতি তাঁহাৰা পৰিহাৰ কৰুন। কৃষক ভিকা চায় না, সে চিৰদিন অপব্যক ভিকা দিয়াছে, সে চিৰদিন অনাক দান কৰিয়াছে। সেই কৃষক নন্দবখানায় অতিথি হইতে চায় না। কৃষক জনে যেখানে দান সেখানে গৰীৰ--যেখানে দান সেখানে বড়লোক! এটা কৃষক বেশ ভাল কৰেই জানে।

মিঃ সুবাবদ্দী মন্নিংহেৰ গদিতে বসিবাব সময় বলিয়াছিলেন--বাংলায় ভাত-কাপড় যোগাইবাব জন্য তাহাৰ একমাত্র দায়িত্ব। তাহাৰ অবস্থা আপনাৰা দেখিতে পাইতেছেন। আব কাপড়ৰ কথা বলিয়া গভৰ্ণমেণ্টকে লজ্জা দেওয়া বুধা। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিজে বছৰে দশ গজ কাপড় দিবেন বলিয়া ঘোষণা কৰিয়াছেন। মফঃস্বলে দেখিলে দেখা যায় গত এক বছৰে মাথাপিছু দুই গজ হইতে তিন গজৰ বেশী কাপড় পায় নাই। বাংলাৰ সমস্ত কাপড় বণ্টনেৰ ভাৱ চোবাবাববাৰীদেব এসোসিয়েশনেৰ হাতে দেওয়া হইয়াছে। দেশেৰ মা বোন উলপ, আব সবজন গভৰ্ণমেণ্টেৰ সাথে ঘডয়ন্ত কৰিয়া দেশদ্রোহী কাপড় ব্যবসায়াৰা শ্যাম ও মধ্য প্রাচ্যে কাপড় রপ্তানী কৰিতেছে। আমি যে তপশীল সম্প্রদায় হইতে আসিয়াছি, যে ভাগচাঘীদেব ঘৰ হইতে আসিয়াছি, ভাত কাপড়ৰ মত শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষুধাও তাহাদেৰ মধ্যে কম নয়। এবাবকাৰ বাজেটে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকেৰ জন্য গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে দয়া কৰিয়া কুড়ি লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুৰ কৰিয়াছেন। উহা মাত্ৰ হাজাৰ শিক্ষকেৰ জন্য মাথা পিছু তিন টাকা। জানি না, মহী সাহেব গ্রামে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষাৰ অবস্থা জানেন কিনা। গত কয়েক বছৰে আমাদেৰ কৃষকেব ছেলেবা বই শ্ৰেণীৰ অভাবে পাঠশালা ছাড়িয়াছে। শিক্ষকৰা ক্ষুধাৰ ভাডনায় বাবসা-বাণিজ্যেৰ দিকে চলিয়া গিয়াছে। জুল বাড়ী ধুসিয়া পড়িয়াছে। শিক্ষকৰা ধৰ্ম্মঘটেব নোটিশ দিয়াছেন। এই ধৰ্ম্মঘটেব নোটিশ তাচিছলোব নয়। মহী যদি মনে কৰেন যে তিন টাকা বেতন বাড়াইলেই শিক্ষাৰ সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হইবে, তাঁহাৰা মুখেৰ ৰাজ্যে বাস কৰিতেছেন। আমাৰা তাহাদেৰ সাবধান কৰিয়া দিতেছি, শিক্ষা বিস্তাবেৰ জন্য যেখানে দেউলক্ষ শিক্ষক প্রয়োজন সেখানে বৰ্তমান নীতি চলিতে থাকিলে ৩০ হাজাৰ কেন ৬০ হাজাৰ শিক্ষক শিক্ষা ছাড়িবেন। তাঁহাৰা অনেকদিন অনাহাবে জুলগুলি বাঁচাইয়া বানিয়াছেন, এবাৰ থাম ছাড়িয়া পলাইবেন।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on his budget. I would expect

a different budget from a truly popular Ministry. This budget carries on it the old bureaucratic stamp. Sir, the budget aims at making the bureaucratic frame of administration stronger than ever while the real interests of the toiling masses have been left neglected. The Department of Police is always the favourite and main support of the present type of Government which does not thrive on the consent and goodwill of the people. Naturally therefore, Sir, the budget provides for rearmament of the Bengal Police, expansion of the thana staff, giving them planes and wireless arrangements besides higher scale of pay. While I do accept the principle that low paid employees should everywhere be given liberal increment, I fail to approve of the policy which places the claim of the Police above all others.

Sir, the Police have been guilty of gross barbarism in different parts of the province, and particularly in Midnapore the police forces committed the most heinous offences which have been proved up to the hilt by a responsible non-official committee of enquiry with Sj. Satish Chandra Samanta, President of the Tamluk Subdivisional Congress Committee, as Chairman. The report of this committee was published in all newspapers and several periodicals and the Government dared not publish any contradiction. Sir, in comparison with these barbarous crimes of the police officers, the reported crimes of the Nazi war criminals look insignificant. Instead of punishing the police who were responsible for such cruel tortures and instead of organising the entire police force on such lines as will serve the interests of the people, the Government seek to reward them by giving them additional benefits and extra strength. This policy at once exposes the true nature of the Government and of its budget.

Sir, the notorious Department of Civil Supplies has also received the blessings of the Finance Minister and the amount of dis-service it has rendered to the people in the course of its career is in sharp contrast to the measure of praise it has received. The less we speak of the Civil Supplies Department the better. It is conspicuous by its uncivil nature. Sir, the current year's estimate under the head "General Administration" is higher by 46 lakhs. This is in keeping with the tradition of the type of Government we happen to have in this province. The Police, Jails and General Administration are the main prop of this Government; while the nation-building departments are pushed to the wall. It is true that the Government have provided for some improvement in the primary education matters, but the minimum demands of the All-Bengal Primary Teachers' Conference have gone unheeded. Sir, the improvement will accrue to the benefit of school board areas, but school boards have not been extended to large part of the province, they do not gain anything under this budget. In a non-school board area, the average income of a primary teacher has been worked out at Rs. 4 per month. The Government should at once extend school board to every district in the Province and should stop the shameful state of primary education by accepting the legitimate demands of All-Bengal Primary Teachers' Conference. Sir, the teachers of the secondary schools should have received sympathetic treatment. The teachers and professors of schools and colleges receive a paltry sum as their pay, and the Government have not considered it necessary to supplement their small pay by suitable dearness allowance. Are the teachers and professors of schools and colleges considered less important than orderlies and peons of offices? Why cannot they be given the same dearness allowance of the same scale as given to others? Why should not the Government take up the cause of education in real earnest and improve the lot of poor teachers and professors who render real service to the nation?

Sir, if we look at the budget for the departments of Agriculture, Public Health and Industries, we find the same lack of real concern for the actual interests of the people. Capital is sought to be made of the plan for liquidating the Permanent Settlement. The plan, Sir, is long overdue, and the proposal for Provincial settlement operations does not carry us far. Why

can't the Government take bold and comprehensive steps in the matter? Sir, schemes do not mean anything if there is lack of will to carry them out. The Soadighi-Gangakhali project, for example, an important scheme for improvement of an existing drainage system in Midnapore, was provided for successively in previous budgets, but in no year could the Government actually take up the project, and the money provided for the project was in each year diverted to other purposes. Therefore, Sir, the mere provision for certain improvements here and there do not mean much; and considering the fact that the Government retains its die-hard and reactionary character, I do not feel any enthusiasm for the proposed improvements. The budget as a whole is not what we like it to be; it miserably fails to serve the peoples' interests, while it puts a premium on the corruption and dishonesty of those on whose misdeeds the present Government depend for its strength and sustenance.

Mr. FAZLUL QADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make some observations on the budget for 1946-47, particularly on flood, famine, rehabilitation and irrigation, general administration, education, industry and co-operative—handloom weaving industry.

First of all I like to deal with flood, famine and rehabilitation which are interconnected with each other.

Since 1942 one catastrophe after another has befallen Chittagong. You have heard of the recent Chittagong flood which brought under water about 600 square miles affecting five lakhs of people. I do not like to narrate the sufferings of the people. The official and non-official organisations are doing their best to render every possible help. I highly appreciate their work and express my deep gratitude to them on behalf of the people of Chittagong, particularly to the District Magistrate, Mr. F. A. Karim, I.C.S., who took immediate action to render help to the sufferers and mobilised all officials and non-officials, in a very methodical manner organised parties for different works under a responsible officer. Recently Mr. Farid Ahmad Choudhury, M.L.A., went to Chittagong and visited some seriously affected areas and placed at the disposal of a well-organised Relief Committee a sum of Rs. 18,000 collected by the Chittagong Relief Committee at Calcutta. Mr. Choudhury deserves our best thanks for this humanitarian work.

Under scheme No. 100, in the Bengal Plan for Post-War Reconstruction, I find two schemes of flood-control for the very area which has been ravaged by the disastrous flood—the Karnafuli Flood Control Scheme and the Halda Flood Control Scheme. As these schemes were initiated by Government at the instance of public agitation, I am sure the causes of the devastating flood were known to Government long before, but they did not take any measure for its prevention. This callous indifference of Government in failing to take preventive measures in the past has brought untold miseries on the people of Chittagong. I would strongly urge upon the Government to take a lesson from this flood and push through the Karnafuli Flood Control and the Halda Flood Control Schemes before we are overtaken by another far more disastrous flood next time.

The poor and the persons rendered destitute should be provided with food till rehabilitated but in this direction these people have been put to a great disadvantage. Under orders of Government all the different centres of the destitute homes in the district have been centralised and located in the town under one centre. As a result most of the poor people who used to remain near their homes and in their native villages worked in the home and earned their livelihood could not come to the town centre. The very object of the new scheme to save the destitutes was thus frustrated. I would therefore, strongly recommend that Government do reconsider this order immediately and locate the homes at the most affected areas to serve the real purpose of these homes. The Government should also remain alert and be ready to meet the apprehended famine as a result of extensive damage to crops.

Sir, we have had no opportunity to ventilate our grievances in the Assembly for a year or so. This is the first time since the last general election that we are being afforded such an opportunity. All of you have heard and read in newspapers what havoc was created by the Ganjam Labour Corps at Kanharpara, Chittagong, on the evening of January 7, last. The horrible atrocities perpetrated are still fresh in your memory. They burnt the whole village, looted it and murdered a man by pouring petrol over his body and then throwing him into the burning fire. They outraged the modesty of women. You must have noted from the Government report that 300 to 400 persons took part in this horrible outrage for long 3 to 4 hours. When the Military Police arrived they gradually left the place. But, Sir, you will be astonished to learn that neither the Military Police nor our local police dared to arrest them or search their persons, nor did they go to the camp to rescue the unfortunate women who were dragged to the camp and ravished. Such are the people whom we pay for the protection of our honour, life and property.

You have read from the Government report that 300 to 400 people took part in the outrage; you have also learnt that only 49 persons were convicted in court and punished lightly—

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDUS SABUR KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps it is just a custom to congratulate my talented friend, the Finance Minister, who has presented the budget, but I hesitate to do it because it happens to be a Section 93 budget which has taken a weak and uncertain shelter behind a popular Ministry.

It has got all the follies, abject incompetency and the most heartless callousness towards the public utilitarian aspects which are characteristic of Section 93 administration. I know that my talented friend has within the short space of time at his disposal done his level best to improve upon the budget here and there, but nevertheless we realise his difficulties even there, as a Minister who is physically responsible to the popular will and support but morally depending on the benedictions of an alien Governor. So this budget presented by him cannot be a budget presented by a Ministry solely and exclusively responsible to the people of this province.

Sir, today the recommendation of the Rowlands Committee is playing a conspicuous part in the administrative firmament of Bengal. It seems still to be the order of the day that whatever comes from these heaven—sent angels from overseas should be taken for granted as being exceedingly good for the administration of this country. But now we must not accept every bit of their recommendations. It should be weighed properly in the light of local adaptability and operational scopes. For whatever good we have got from them we are grateful but whatever bad we have got we shall hold up before the public and they will judge them.

Sir, the steel frame of the I.C.S. administration which this Committee for the future administrative improvement of the Province has suggested vitally betrays the award of the Cabinet Mission, future independence and the right of self-determination which we, in the long run, want to achieve. Today we are confronted with a peculiar position. The entire mentality of the officials of the Province has undergone a thorough deterioration. They think themselves more responsible to the Chief Secretary than to the people. Sir, this is the characteristic of the prevailing official attitude today. But let me assure them that the people of this Province will not forget them for their attitude of callous disregard of their responsibility to the people of this Province. And it will not be too late when they will have to face the bar of public opinion and they must remember that it will then be the people of Bengal and not the Chief Secretary who will be their judges. (At this stage the blue light was on.) I am not sorry that the green light is on

The S.O.S. has been issued from Bombay and in its light we want to see the path through which the nation will have to march on to the future for their attainment of their dreams. Under the shadow of this light let them, those hungry and nude millions, who are waiting outside the walls of this House, hear what we wanted to do for them, with what words of hope we wanted to console them. The other day my friends on the other side said that we will never achieve our object unless we can improve the lot of the teeming millions who are dying or who are living under the most abject condition, and without that no Pakistan or Hindustan can be attained; so let this controversial point be kept aside. Let me remind my friends opposite that without looking to the turrets of Ananda Bhavan they should look straight into the reality, and then they will realise why we stand for Pakistan and why we shall, if need be, die for Pakistan.

Mr. MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a newcomer to this honourable House and I must therefore crave your indulgence, Sir, should I unwittingly exceed the bounds of debate.

Sir, many able and gifted speakers have already dwelt on the merits as well as on the shortcomings of the budget and not much can be added to the observations already made without being guilty of repetition.

Sir, one item that accounts for fully 15 per cent. of the deficit is the loss accruing from boat construction. This has very rightly come in for adverse criticism from all quarters of the House. I should like to ask the Hon'ble Minister if those responsible for this colossal mismanagement and possibly graft have been apprehended and brought to book. I ask this, Sir, because the Government are embarking on a very big construction programme and if jobbery and graft are not completely eliminated and liquidated, persons who gave us jerry-built boats would equally readily give us jerry-built houses and the proposed medical colleges and tuberculosis sanatorium and hospitals might come crashing down on the patients and the proposed dams and reservoirs collapse and everything in the end may again have to be written off as irrecoverable loss.

In my opinion, Sir, the decision to provide jeep cars and light planes for use of touring officers is a happy one. Let us hope that the fortunate officers will make proper use of them to establish contact with the masses and study their problems at first hand in an effort to relieve their distress and not, Sir, for creating an excuse for putting in travelling and daily allowance bills.

The Government, Sir, must be congratulated also on liberalising the pay of the lower paid Police staff. We might now reasonably expect some relaxation of the perpetual frowns we are so accustomed to see in the faces of our guardians of the Law.

Sir, two lakhs set apart for air-conditioning the Writers' Buildings may not appear to be a big sum, but, Sir, with a deficit budget it is an unpardonable luxury. When the country has not the barest necessities of life and the starving, malaria-ridden, half-naked peasant has to toil in the sun, rain and hail and storm it clearly appears incongruous, Sir, that the *Burra Sahibs* of Writers' Buildings should be pampered with air-conditioning.

Reference has been made in the budget, Sir, of the quasi-permanent auxiliary hospitals in rural areas. We have one such, Sir, in our village and if the conditions obtaining in it are such as the funds provided for it warrant, I would humbly suggest that more money be provided for and proper supervision exercised over these hospitals that are doing incalculable good to the indigent population of rural areas.

Sir, under Procurement Finance a loss of two crores has been shewn — a loss constituting fully 20 *per cent.* of the deficit. The Government have assiduously sought to create an impression in the public mind that the Procurement Department was being run on business lines with a strict eye

on profits and losses. And this has been advanced as one of the reasons for the difference existing between procurement and selling prices of foodgrains. There is something very rotten in the state of Denmark, Sir, except the rotten foodgrains that were arbitrarily consigned to the rivers presumably to cover up traces of incriminating evidence. The only thing that suggests to explain away these two crores, Sir, is graft with a capital "G".

Glaring omissions in the budget, Sir, are the absence of provision of funds for the working of the Secondary Education Scheme, funds for the abolition of the zamindari system and funds for the nationalisation of coal and other basic industries. Here I would like to ask the Government if they are aware that British interests in Bengal are being transferred to the Marwaris who are investing more and more of their wealth in this Province. What scheme, if any, has been drawn up by our Government to prevent the Marwaris from acquiring British interests wholesale in this Province? I suggest, Sir, that Government buy up these concerns and the Marwaris by legislation be forced to disgorge these interests.

Sir, this Ministry stands committed to the Muslim nation to implement these schemes. Sir, we have a right to ask if these matters are exercising the minds of the Government, as when we go back to our own constituencies we shall have to face these very questions.

Sir, the Government have provided for the supply of improved jute seeds to the cultivators.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. D. COMES. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fairness to Government severity of any criticism of Governmental policy or absence of policy as revealed in the budget should be subdued by a sense of the realisation of the fact that Government have been in office for barely four months and four months is inadequate to formulate a long-term policy with a reasonable degree of completeness and precision. Subject to this preliminary remark I propose to level my criticism on the budget from an objective point of view.

Sir, of all the problems facing the province in this period of transition from war to peace, poverty of the masses should be the first concern of Government. Let the peasant get the money he needs and he will find out where to obtain his education, how to look after his health or improve his housing condition. Poverty, Sir, that is the hardest knot, solve that knot and the minor knots of education, public health and others will be solved automatically. The remedy is to launch out a carefully planned system of public expenditure, supported by a wisely selected banking and taxation policy so as to fill the pockets of the working classes with plenty of purchasing power thereby reaping the benefits of an inflationary finance and scrupulously avoiding the usual concomitant defects by regulation of the capital market, by perfecting the system of rationing and price control and canalising the savings into productive works. There lies the art of public finance—an art which had been practised with such consummate skill in Germany between 1933-38, which helped them to build thousands of roads and buildings and wipe out six million unemployed, an art which the British economists have urged upon their Government to apply with equal skill against the onslaughts of future depression, an art which they have already put into partial operation to offset the disequilibrating tendencies of demobilisation. That is an art which the Government will find it worthwhile to study. Indeed they should have mastered it already before rushing to seize the reins of office single-handed on the strength of sheer "brute majority", if I may say so without infringing Mr. Jinnah's patent

From this objective and comparative point of view I consider the budget and the statement sadly disappointing. Much as I may search for it the budget fails to reveal that touch of creative genius to be expected from an imaginative and responsible Government. It is the same old story of taxation, on stereotyped lines of least resistance and taxation for revenue's sake

when the whole civilised world is crying for taxation for equalising the distribution of wealth, it is the same old story of attempting to keep the expenditure as near to the limit of revenue as possible for fear of a big deficit budget, when the whole world of Pundits have declared the danger of a deficit budget as an exploded theory, it is the same old story of mechanical accounting and rough and ready estimation prepared under a confused and wavering direction, it is the same old story built on same old theme with a colouring here and there that make the budget no better nor worse than one fit to be described as faultily faultless, icily regular and so splendidly null. It is time that Government should realise that if we are to overtake the progress of other nations who are hundred years ahead of us, we have to give up the orthodox standard fashion of budgeting and firmly resolve upon a new and revolutionary fiscal policy.

The unemployment problem is becoming more and more acute because of demobilisation and the appearance of the cycle of depression. Soon the unemployed will be coming to besiege these sacred precincts and violate the dignity of this House. Soon they will be swelling the number of thieves robbers and other criminals. What policy does the Government intend to pursue? The only reply we find from the budget is that they are making provision for increasing the police force and arming them to the teeth as if the remedy lies that way.

In the development programme, there are certainly some eye-arresting expenditure. Some of these expenditure will have real, beneficial and lasting effect on the economy of the province, others are hopelessly under doses—

(At this stage Mr. I. F. Morris was crossing between Mr. Speaker and Mr. D. Gomes.)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morris, you have crossed between the Speaker and the honourable member addressing the Chair. This is derogatory to the Chair as well as to the House.

MR. I. F. MORRIS: I am sorry Sir.

MR. D. COMES:possibly designed to have a more propagand value for the party in power than render any lasting service to the public of Bengal. It would have been wiser for Government to withhold the allocation of resources from some of the heads and concentrate on fewer heads so as to obtain cumulative result. Referring to the programme of building for the citizens of Calcutta, may I draw the attention of the Government to pamphlet called "Eco" published from 92, Lower Circular Road, by the Rev. J. Henry, a continental economist of international fame, wherein contained an ambitious scheme for the building of healthy, modern, labour quarter in Moti Jheel village, a big vegetable garden within easy reach of Calcutta and the building of an inland harbour in the Salt Lake Estate on the models of Antwerp and Duisburg.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

MR. JOGENDRA CHANDRA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a new member in the House and this is the first time I am delivering a speech and I hope my friends will encourage me and show me sympathy so that I can discharge my functions and duties satisfactorily.

I have gone through the budget and the statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Ali, Minister-in-charge of Finance Department. First of all I would like to discuss about the Relief and Rehabilitation Scheme of the Government. It is seen in the budget that a large amount was spent for relief and rehabilitation to the distressed people of Bengal due to famine last year. We were not given to understand as to how and where this money was spent. We know arrangement was made for some relief hospitals

without any medicine and without any efficient doctors. The arrangement that was made by Government was made carelessly. This year also a very big amount has been allotted in the budget to be spent for relief and rehabilitation under different heads of the budget and some portion of the money has already been spent before it has been passed in the Assembly. However, we are to deal with the present budget placed before us.

In discussing the budget first of all I would like to mention that the budget introduced before us by the Hon'ble Finance Minister with regard to relief and rehabilitation is without any scheme and without any plan. His vague statement does not give us to understand as to how and why and where he wants to spend this huge amount of public money. Sir, you know that during the last famine the helpless poor people of Bengal, both Hindus and Muslims, sold their huts, lands, cattle and all that they had, and afterwards finding no other alternative they had to embrace starvation and death.

In this connection I would like to enlighten you about the irresponsibility of the League Ministry towards the distressed people of my district—Tippera. Here, Sir, I shall specially give you a picture of the poor fishermen of my district. Probably you know they have no landed properties and they have to depend upon fishing business. They have no education so that they cannot go on with other business. I am sorry to say that they are being neglected and abandoned for ever.

Sir, just immediately before the last famine in 1943 the big boats belonging to the fishermen were snatched away by the Government due to the denial policy.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulana Md. ABDULLAE BAQUI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাজেটের প্রশংসা এবং নিন্দা কয়েকদিন থেকে আমরা অনেক শুনলাম। আমার নিজের বক্তব্য—এই বাজেটে যেসব কাজ করা হবে জন অর্থসচিব সাহেব কথা দিয়েছেন যদি সেগুলি তিনি রাখতে পারেন তাহলে নিশ্চয়ই বাজেট প্রশংসাযোগ্য এবং তাব জন্য অর্থসচিব সাহেব ধন্যবাদের পাত্র হবেন। আব যদি তিনি আমাদের যেসব কথা ও আশ দিয়েছেন তা রক্ষা করা না হয়, তবে তার উল্টো হবে, তাব বাজেট প্রশংসাযোগ্য হবে না। আমার সময় মাত্র পাঁচ মিনিট, এই অল্প সময়ের মধ্যে আমার পক্ষে যা বলা সম্ভব, নিবেদন করতে চেষ্টা করব।

Procurement সম্বন্ধে বক্তব্য হল এই যে, এতে Government কত লোক নিযুক্ত করেছেন আমি তা সংখ্যা জানি না; কত টাকা যে এতে ব্যয় হচ্ছে, তাও আমার জানা নাই। তবে এটা ঠিক যে, বহু লক্ষ টাকা এর জন্য ব্যয় হচ্ছে। এবং ডাইবেস্টর থেকে ইন্সপেক্টর, সাব-ইন্সপেক্টর পর্যন্ত বহু শত কর্তৃচাৰী এই কাজে জন্য নিযুক্ত হয়েছেন। তা সত্ত্বেও agent বাখার স্বার্থকতা কি? অনেক চিন্তা করেও তা বুঝিতে পারলাম না। কমিশন স্বরূপ এজেন্টগণ যে টাকা পান তা নিতান্ত কম নহে। এই টাকাটা বাঁচিয়ে অনায়াসে অন্য অত্যাশংকীয় কাজে ব্যয় করা যেতে পারে। আর একটা কথা এই—দিনাজপুরে প্রায় সাড়ে পাঁচ টাকা করে খানের দর। বর্তমান সময়ে সমস্ত জিনিষের দাম অত্যন্ত বেড়ে গেছে। বলদের দাম থেকে আরম্ভ করে মজুর ও চাষের অত্যাশংকীয় মজুরিও মূল্য চাব পাঁচগুণ বেশী হয়েছে। এক মণ ধান উৎপাদন করতে যে খরচা হয়—তার তুলনায় সাড়ে পাঁচ টাকা খুবই কম। যাবা নিজের জমি চাষাবাদ করে তাদের সম্পর্কে এই কথা। কিন্তু আধিকারদের অবস্থা আরও শোচনীয়। সাড়ে পাঁচ টাকার অর্ধেক জমির মালিককে দেওয়ার পর আধিকারদের যা বাঁচে তা দিয়ে তাব খরচ পোষানো মোটেই সম্ভবপর নহে। তথাপি তারা গভর্ণমেন্টের নির্ধারিত দরেই ধান বিক্রয় করতে বাধ্য হচ্ছে। অথচ গরীব কৃষকদের তাদের ন্যায্য প্রাপ্য হতে বঞ্চিত করে গভর্ণমেন্ট ও এজেন্টগণ পর্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে লাভ করতে বিশুদ্ধ সংকোচ ও লজ্জা বোধ করতেন না। সম্ভবতঃ আমার বক্তৃতার সময় শো হয়ে গিয়েছে। আমরা সকলে গত election এর সময় পাকিস্তান সম্বন্ধে প্রচার করেছি। আমরা বলছি যে পাকিস্তান না হলে মুসলমানদের ধর্ম, কৃষ্টি, সংস্কৃতি, ইত্যাদি রক্ষা করা সম্ভবপর নহে। এখানে যে মস্তিদল এই কার্যভার পেয়েছেন তাঁরাও এই কথা প্রচার করে এখানে স্থানলাভ করেছেন। আপনারা সকলে অবগত আছেন যে, সপ্তর্গুণক মদ ও গুয়াবেলাকে কোরাণ-মন্দিরে “নাপাক” ও হারাম বলা হয়েছে। এই হারাম ও “নাপাক” জিনিষগুলির প্রচলনের অনুমতি পাকিস্তানের প্রচারকগণ কিভাবে সমর্থন করতে পারেন তা আমি বুঝে উঠতে পারছি না।

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget has been presented by a Ministry which claims to be a popular one. It was therefore, expected that there would be much revolutionary urge to resurrect and revive the dying Bengal which is suffering so much from the after-effects, aftermath of a devastating famine and a global war. But if we look at the budget, we will be disappointed. It was expected that it would be a people's budget, it was expected that it would be a poor man's budget, because the Ministry claims to represent the poorest people of the world. But what do we see in the budget? As we look into the budget, we see that the pay bill as provided in the budget amounts to more than 18 crores 60 lakhs. The revenue of the Province is 42½ crores of which 10½ crores has been allotted for development purposes which is being granted by the Central Government. We get only 32 crores which is the resources of the Province. Out of these resources we are spending Rs. 18 crores for the pay bill of the Government organisation of a people which is the poorest in the world and where people die by lakhs and millions at a slightest cause due to failure of a single crop in the year. With this budget in hand can we claim to be servants of the poorest people in the world? I am not criticising this budget in a spirit of sheer antagonism. It is a matter for introspection. Just look at the budget. I know the difficulties under the present Constitution Act, but much could be done if there was will to do good. Much could be done if there was real determination. If there was real determination, much could be done in the ministerial field. Even in the field of special responsibilities of the Governor deadlock can be created if the Ministry—a popular Ministry—wants to do that. In the present circumstances, the Governor cannot stand in the way if the Ministry has a will to do good to the people. Sir, it is a country where unequal distribution of wealth is the greatest in the world. It is a country where cottages of the poor people are situated side by side with the palaces of millionaires and multi-millionaires. It is a country where this vast difference exists between the lowest paid and the highest paid officers, the pay for the process-servers and lowest grade officers being Rs. 13 and pay at the top being Rs. 10,000. This difference must be narrowed; this difference must be removed, but there is no such thing provided in the budget. Sir, in the development field we see the same lack of foresight, same ignorance about the real want of the people. The principle of development in a province like Bengal must be to make it self-sufficient so far as the necessities of a poor man's life are concerned, i.e. in food and in clothing. There is no such plan in the budget.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. MUHAMMAD RUKNUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমাদের মাননীয় Finance Minister যেভাবে বাজেট তৈরী করেছেন তাব অনেক কার্য্য করবার চেষ্টা দেখে বাস্তবিক তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ ন দিয়ে পারি না। তিনি এবাবকাবে বাজেটকে deficit বাজেটে পরিণত করেছেন সাড়ে দশ কোটি টাকার। তাঁ উদ্দেশ্য, তিনি বহু কাজ করতে চান দেশে। তাতেই সাড়ে দশ কোটি টাকা ঘাটতি ফেলেছেন। তাঁর এ চেষ্টার জন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দেওয়াব সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এই কথাও মনে জাগে যে, তিনি এমন করে যদি বাংলার বুকে বাংলার মস্তকের উপরে প্রতি বৎসর কর্ত্তের উপর কর্ত্ত টানতে থাকেন তাহ'লে কত বৎসর লাগবে এই হতভাগ বাংলা দেউলীয়া হতে। সেজন্য আমি এই কথা তাকে শ্রবণ করিয়ে দেই যে, deficit বাজেট করণও হতে পারে না যদি তিনি বহু কুখ্যাত জমিদারী প্রথা বাংলার বুক হতে উঠিয়ে দিতে পারেন। তাহ'লে ১০।১৫ কোটি টাব এক বছরেই বাংলার তহবিলে আসতে পারে। এবং ভবিষ্যতে আব ঘাটতি বাজেট হবে না। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আ আরও বলবো যে আমার পূর্ব্ববর্তী বক্তা মৌলানা বাকী সাহেব—মদ, গাঁজার কথা যা বলেছিলেন সেই কথা পুনরুজ্জী করে বলছি পৃথিবীর প্রায় সব সভ্য দেশে এই গাঁজা মদের কারবার উঠে গেছে—আমাদের দেশেই থাকবে কেন? আমি বুঝতে পারি না এদেশ কি সভ্যতা থেকে অনেক দূরে সবে গেছে? মাননীয় ম মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি যে বাংলা দেশের এই কলঙ্ক যেন আর না থাকে।

তারপর আমি বলব শিক্ষা বিভাগে যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে তার সম্বন্ধে। ছেলেদের Scholarship খাতে গেল বছর ছিল ৫ লক্ষ ৯৬ হাজার ৪৭৬ টাকা, এবার তিনি Scholarshipএর বরাদ্দ করেছেন ম

৫ লক্ষ ৪৬ হাজার টাকা। অর্থাৎ সাড়ে ৫০ হাজার টাকা কম। তিনি কি চান বাংলার ছাত্রেরা তাদের পড়াশুনা বন্ধ করে দিক? আমি বলব সামান্য চাকুরীয়ারা যদি dearness allowance পেতে পারে—তাহ'লে studentsদের Scholarshipএর পরিমাণ কেন বাড়বে না এবং তারা সেই সঙ্গে dearness allowance কেন পাবে না? নইলে কলকাতার থেকে এবং মফঃস্বলের স্কুল কলেজে কি করে এই দু'দিনে ছেলেরা পড়াশুনা করবে? যখন মাদ্রাসা Educationএর দিকে তাকাই আমরা দেখতে পাই যে, মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার জন্য যাহা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে এই বৎসর যদিও ৩০,৫২৪ টাকা বেশী বরাদ্দ হয়েছে কিন্তু এই বাংলা দেশে মাদ্রাসার সংখ্যা ১২০০৩ উপর। প্রতি মাদ্রাসায় যে সাহায্য দেওয়া হবে, তা গড়ে ৩৭১০ টাকার বেশী পড়বে না। এই যদি ভবিষ্যৎ মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হয়, তাহ'লে হয়ত মাদ্রাসাগুলি উঠিয়ে দিতে হবে, নতুবা তার শিক্ষার ভাল ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে তাতে উপযুক্ত সাহায্য দান করে।

মাহারা General Educationএ B.A., M.A., পাশ করবেন তাঁদের Trainingএর ব্যবস্থা করতে তিনি যথেষ্ট টাকা খরচ করতে রাজি আছেন। কিন্তু মাদ্রাসার মৌলানাদের ট্রেনিংএর কোন ব্যবস্থা তিনি করেন নাই। তদুপরি মাদ্রাসা পাশ মৌলানাদের চাকরীরও কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। এমন কি হাকিমী শিখে দেশের উপকার কখন, হেকিম হয়ে দেশের রোগ দূর করতে চেষ্টা করবেন তার কোনই ব্যবস্থা বাজেটে নাই।

তারপর আর একটা কথা বলবো—Canal আর irrigationএর জন্য হয়ত বেশ টাকার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে—Agricultureএ হয়ত অনেক টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু একটা জিনিষ ভুলে গেলে চলবে না যে, যে ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা দিয়ে এনোনিয়া সালফেট নামক সার কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার হতে বাংলায় আমদানীর ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, তা না করে বহু কৃষ্যাত কচুরিপানা যাহাতে প্রতি বৎসর জেলার পর জেলা ধুংস করছে সেই কচুরিপানা eradicate করে এবং তাকে compost করে তা দিয়ে manure তৈরী করবার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত—তাহ'লে দেশের বহু ধানের মাঠ রক্ষিত হয়ে দেশের বহু উপকার সাধিত হবে এবং দেশে আর ভাতের অভাব থাকবে না। এদিকে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের আশু দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি।

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I rise on a point of privilege. The discussion on the budget is a privilege of the Opposition. I am afraid many members on the (Government side have been allowed to speak who are supporting the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed 19 members from the Opposition and have now called the 20th member to speak.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: How many members from the opposition and how many members from the Government side have spoken, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Twelve members from the Government side have spoken.

MR. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, it is the privilege of the Opposition to speak but this privilege has been curtailed.

MR. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I do not agree with the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. In the general discussion of the budget every member in this House should take part. The Opposition will have special right to move cut motions on demands.

MR. SPEAKER: I see no difference between members of the Opposition and those supporting the Government when they criticise the budget. So it cannot be curtailing the rights of the Opposition.

MR. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, এখানে এই কিছুক্ষণ স্বল্পতায় বেশ সকলে পরিকার করে বুঝতে পারছি, শুধু কংগ্রেস দলই নয়, অপর পক্ষের অনেকেই এই বাজেটের বিরুদ্ধে বহু আলোচনা করেছেন। আপনাদের কাছে, অর্থসচিবের কাছে এবং এই হলের সমস্তের নিকট আমার এই নিবেদন, আপনারা সকলে বন্ধপরিষদ হয়ে এই বাজেটকে আমূল পরিবর্তন করে দেশের নিঃস্ব জনসাধারণের কল্যাণের জন্য কার্যকরী এই প্রকারের কোন বাজেট প্রস্তুত করুন। কারণ আমাদের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ আজ আমার কাছে অনুভব এবং তাদের গৃহসংস্থানের জন্য আমাদের সকলের দিকে তাকিয়ে রয়েছে। আপনারা electionএর পূর্বে তাদের যে আশা ও ভরসা দিয়ে এখানে উপস্থিত হয়েছেন—সেই আশা আপনারা বিস্মৃত হবেন না। (Hear, Hear.) হয়ত

নিজেদের দলগত স্বার্থের জন্য আপনাদের অনেক কিছু বলাব ও করবার থাকে। কিন্তু যেক্ষেত্রে আমরা সকলে একমত হয়ে এখানে এসেছি জনসাধারণের কল্যাণ প্রচেষ্টায়, সেই কল্যাণ প্রচেষ্টাকে যদি সাধক করতে হয়—তাহলে আমাদের একমাত্র কর্তব্য এই বাজেটকে আমূল পরিবর্তন করে জনসাধারণের কল্যাণকর কর্মপদ্ধতি গ্রহণ করা। এবং আমি আশা করি আপনারাও সেই উদ্দেশ্যে আমাদের কংগ্রেসদলীয় নেতা এবং বিরুদ্ধদলীয় নেতা সকলে একত্রিত হয়ে একপ কল্যাণজনক কোন কর্মব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করুন। আমি শুনছি---

Mr. MARTUZA REZA CHOWDHURY: Sir, the honourable member is addressing the members on this side. I think he should address the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Chakravorty: Please address the Speaker

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: I am addressing the Speaker as well as the whole House.

Mr. SPEAKER: You must address the Speaker and speak to the House through the Speaker.

Mr. BENODE CHANDRA CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I am appealing to the House through you. এখন আমি বলব আমাদের বাজেটে যে ব্যয়বাহ্য দেখা যাচ্ছে, সে ব্যয়টা সম্পূর্ণ বদলিয়ে কিভাবে Government পরিচালিত হ'তে পারে সেই ব্যবস্থা করা। আমরা দেখছি Civil Supply Department লোকসান দিচ্ছে। কেন লোকসান দিচ্ছে? যে সমস্ত অনভিজ্ঞ অসাধু কর্মচারী রয়েছে তাদের প্রশ্রয় দিয়ে আমরা এই লোকসান রুদ্ধে বহন করছি। আপনারা যাদের Lawyer-Magistrate নিযুক্ত করেন বিচার কার্যের ব্যবস্থা করবার জন্য, কিন্তু ব্যবসাদার লোক নিয়ে যাতে এই ব্যবসা কার্য ভালভাবে পরিচালিত হয় তার কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। মাড়োয়ারী ও অন্যান্য ব্যবসায়ীদের বিরুদ্ধে অনেক কিছু বলবার থাকা পারে কিন্তু এই কথা তুলবেন না, যে সকল নতুন নতুন স্বার্থের খেলা এই মহিষের সুযোগ নিয়ে চলেছে তাতে বিরুদ্ধেও আমাদের দাঁড়াতে হবে। আমরা দেখছি ইম্পাহানী কোম্পানী ও অন্যান্য বাস্তব লোক আজকে কোটিপ হুচ্ছে। যারা কোনদিন কণ্ট্রাক্টরী করে নাই তারা আজ কণ্ট্রাক্টরী করে লাভবান হচ্ছে। আজ এই সব প্রশ্রয় মন্ত্রীকে আপনাবা জিজ্ঞাসা করতে পারেন এবং এই সকল কার্যের দ্বারা আমাদের দেশে যে আবহাওয়া ব হযেছে--সেই দূষিত আবহাওয়া থেকে যদি দেশকে মুক্ত করতে চান, যদি এই চোবা কারবার ও দুর্নীতি থেকে দেশ রক্ষা করতে চান, তাহ'লে আপনাদের অবিলম্বে উচিত এই Civil Supply Department-এর সকল কর্মচারী সরিয়ে উপযুক্ত ভাল লোক বসান। আর administration-এর যে ব্যবস্থা কবেছেন, আমি অন্য পক্ষ থেকে ও প্রশংসা ওনেছি। কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি আমরা যে আড়াই শো প্রতিনিধি রয়েছে--তাবা কি দেশের দুঃখে কথা মন্ত্রীদের গোচরীভূত করতে পারে না? তা যদি পারে, তবে কি তাঁরা সবকারী কর্মচারীদের কিছু কবা পাবেন না? পুলিশের ব্যবস্থাবাদের যে মঞ্জুরী দিচ্ছি, তাব কি কোন সাধকতা আছে? আজ গ্রা নারী সমাজ নিখুঁত বিচরণ করতে পারে না, গুণ্ডা লোকের দ্বারা লঙ্ঘিত হচ্ছে, পুলিশ তাহাদিগকে রক্ষা কর পারে না। এটা Government-এর পক্ষে অত্যন্ত লজ্জার বিষয়। আজ বাংলা দেশের নারীদের উ' যে অত্যাচার, যে নারীহরণ বর্তমানে চলছে--তা থেকে তাদের রক্ষা করা যে কোন সভ্য গণতন্ত্র-মেন্টের কর্তব্য

Mr. SURESH CHANDRA DASGUPTA: আমার বক্তব্য বলবার পূর্বে আমাদের তরুণ অর্থ-সচিব অভিনন্দন করব--তার উপাধি পরিচয় করবার জন্য। এই তরুণ বয়সে তাঁর উপাধির গৌরব ভোগ না কবেই তিনি ত্যাগের পথে অগ্রসর হতে পেরেছেন, তার জন্য অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। আগামী ১৬ই আগষ্ট তাঁরা বলেছেন প্রত্য সংঘর্ষ হবে এই দেশেতে। প্রত্য সংঘর্ষের ফল আমরা জানি। সেইজন্যই বোধ হয় অর্থ-সচিব মহোদয় পুলিশে সংখ্যা বাড়াতে দিয়েছেন। কাদের জন্য পুলিশের সংখ্যা বাড়িয়েছেন সেই কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করতে পারি নি পুলিশের জন্য ৩ কোটি ৪৫ লক্ষ ৮৬ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন; আর শিক্ষার জন্য বরাদ্দ করেছেন ৩ কো ৬১ লক্ষ। এর উপর আবার আড়াই লক্ষ টাকা building খরচ। অর্থ-সচিবকে মনে কবিয়া দিচ্ছি--এসে লোকের শিক্ষার জন্য তিনি যা ব্যবস্থা করেছেন--তার জন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিতে ইচ্ছা করে বটে কিন্তু হিসাব দেখে আর সে ইচ্ছা করে না। তিনি বলেছেন ২০ লক্ষ টাকা প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের জন্য ব্যয় করবেন; কিন্তু লক্ষ কুড়ি হাজার প্রাইমারী শিক্ষক আছে বাংলা দেশে। তাগ করে দেখছি মাসে তাদের ১৮০ করে প' এতে আশ্রয়প্রার্থীদের কোন কারণ নাই। প্রাইমারী স্কুলের জন্য--৫১,৪৪০টি প্রাইমারী স্কুলের জন্য--ব্যয় ব' করেছেন ২২ লক্ষ টাকা। হিসাব করলে দেখা যায় তাতে পড়ে যায় ৪৮ টাকা মাসে। second

schoolএর জন্য তিনি ব্যবস্থা করেছেন যে টাকা—হিসাব করে দেখলে প্রত্যেক স্কুলে মাসে পড়ে ৫৮ টাকা অথচ প্রত্যেক স্কুলে দশটা ক্লাশ, অন্ততঃ ১২ জন শিক্ষক আছে। শিক্ষক পিছেতো ৫ টাকাও পড়েন। Secondary ৫০টি selected schoolএর জন্য বরাদ্দ করেছেন ৬৫ হাজার টাকা, হিসাব করলে মাসে গড়ে পড়ে ১০৮ টাকা। Governmentএর distributionএর জন্য তিনি যে বইয়ের ব্যবস্থা করেছেন তা হিসাব করলে দেখ যায় বছরে পড়ে গড়ে ৭৫ টাকা। কলেজ থেকে ধুল সকলে এই টাকাই পাচ্ছে। Reformatory schoolএ কোন বইয়ের ব্যবস্থা নেই। আমরা জানি দুই ছেলেপিলেদের গল্পের বই পড়িয়ে মানুষ কে তুণতে হয়। অথচ তিনি এরজন্য কিছুই রাখেন নাই। জানিনা এর ভেতর বেতের খরচ লুকা আছে কি না। ছেলেদের স্বাস্থ্য নষ্ট হয়ে গেছে। তাদের tiffinএর জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। জেলহাতে যানি আজও উঠেনা। আমাব বয়স ৬০এব উপ। জেলে আমাকে দিয়ে ঘানি টানাবেনা—অর্থসচিবের মত যাদের বয়স ৪০এব কম তাদের দিয়ে ঘানি টানান অশস্ত্রম নয় প্রত্যক্ষ সংঘর্ষের ফলে জেলে কে যাব কে জানে? আবও অনেক কথা বলবার ছিল সময় কম বলে আমি বলব না। আমার রাজনীতির কোন জ্ঞান নাই—কোন দেশে বাজেট কিভাবে তৈরী হয় তা জানি না। সাধারণ গৃহস্থ যেমন বাজেট করে সেই কথা বলব। অনেকে বলেছেন এটা একটা আমলাতান্ত্রিক বাজেট হয়েছে। কেন হয়েছে সেই কথা বলতে চাই। আমরা আপন ঘরের খন বাজেট কবি তখন পরিবারের লোকদের জিজ্ঞাসা করি তাদের কি অভাব, কি প্রয়োজন আছে—তাই শুনে আমরা সেইমত ব্যবস্থা কবি। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশের বাজেট তৈরীর সময় মন্ত্রিগণ দেশের লোকদের সঙ্গে কোন পরামর্শ করেন না। সেক্রেটারীয়েট বড় বড় আমলা থাকেন বা সহরে সহরে বড় বড় I. C. S. থাকেন, তাদের সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করেন। দেশের অভাব-অভিযোগ দূর করতে হবে, অথচ আমাদের কাছে তা জিজ্ঞাসা করেন না, আর আমাদের মত নতুন লোক যারা আগে এই Council এ আসেনি, সেই আমাদের এতে কত অসুবিধা হয় তা বলছি। ২৪ তারিখে এত বড় বড় কয়খানা বই হাতে তুলে দিয়ে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বক্তৃতা আরম্ভ করলেন। আমরা দেশে যাবার সুযোগ পেলাম না, আমাদের লোকের সঙ্গে একবারও পরামর্শ করতে পারলাম না, তাদের জানাতে পারলাম না, তাদের জন্য কি বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। তাঁরা সে সম্বন্ধে কি বলে তা শোনারও সুযোগ হ'ল না। আমরা তাদের প্রতিনিধি তাদের দুঃখ দুর্দশা দূর করবো, অথচ আমরা পবন বুদ্ধিমান—তাদের কথা শুনবার কোন দরকার নাই। এই ব্যবস্থাই হ'ল আমলাতান্ত্রিক মনোভাব। আমরা মনে হয় তরুণ অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যদি revolution করতে চান, তবে বাজেট তৈরীর বেলাতেও নতুন বিপ্লবের স্পষ্ট করুন। দেশের লোকের কাছে শুনুন, তাদের কি অভাব-অভিযোগ, তাবা কি চায়, তাদের কাছে যান, তাবপর বাজেট তৈরী করবেন। কেবল Writer's Buildingএর সেক্রেটারীদের কথা শুনে বাজেট তৈরী করবেন না। আবও অনেক কথা বলবার ইচ্ছা ছিল সময় নাই। অন্যান্য সকলে তন্মু ভাব কবে বাজেটের সমাধাচনা কবেছেন, আমি আব কি বলবো। আমি শুধু বলতে চাই—আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা যেন, এবার যা হ'ল তা হ'ল—নতুন বছরের বাজেট তৈরীর সময়, যদি জেলে না গিয়ে এখানেই থাকেন, তাহ'লে এমনভাবে বাজেট তৈরী করার চেষ্টা করবেন, যাতে সত্যিই লোকের বাজেট তৈরী হয়।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

MR. PRAMATHA NATH BANDOPADHYAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় দশকোটি টাকা ঘাটতি হওয়া সত্ত্বেও যে বাজেট আমাদের কাছে নিয়ে এসেছেন, তা বাইরে থেকে দেখলে অতি মনোরম। কিন্তু এই মনোহারী কথা আমরা পূর্বেও শুনেছি, আজও শুনিছি এবং এই Bureaucratic Government যতদিন থাকবে, ততদিনই আমাদের শুনতে হবে। আর তাদের কাজ কি হয় তাও আমরা জানতে পারি। এই টাকার অধিকাংশই অপব্যয় হয়। আমাদের দেশে টাকা ঘাবা যে সকল কাজ হয় তাতে প্রজা মূল খুব কম হয়। যে মনোহারী বাক্য আমাদের দেশের লোকদের বলা হচ্ছে তাদের অবস্থা কি? ১৯৪৬ সালের গোড়াতে দুভিক্ষের যে কালো ছায়া বাংলার উপর পড়েছিল সেই কালো ছায়া এখন আরও গাঢ়তরভাবে পড়েছে। আমাদের জানান হচ্ছে ১৯৪৩ সালের চেয়েও বড় দুভিক্ষের সম্মুখীন আমাদের হতে হবে। যদি তাই হয় তবে আমাদের চেষ্টা হবে এই দুভিক্ষ কি করে নিবারণ করতে পারি। সেই চেষ্টা কি করে আমরা সকলে মিলে করব তাই সকলের দেখা উচিত। আমরা জানি আমাদের কথা কি? ১৯৩৯ সালের তদানীন্তন গভর্নমেন্টের অর্থসচিব বলেছিলেন যে খানচালের কখনও ঘাটতি হবে না এবং খবরের কাগজে ধানের ও চালের মোট বহনকারীর চিত্র দিয়ে জানান হয়েছিল—প্রচুর পরিমাণে খাদ্যশস্য আসছে। তারপর দেখা গেল—৫০ লক্ষ লোক বাংলা দেশের রাস্তাঘাটে, ফুটপাথের উপরে, কুঁকড়ে শুকিয়ে শুকিয়ে মরে গেল। Mr. Speaker,

Sir, আমরা জানি আপনার ও আমার মা-বোনেরা তাদের ইজ্জৎ রক্ষা করবার জন্য তারা দেহ বিক্রয় করেছে তথাপি তারা মরে গেছে--তারা বাঁচেনি। এই যে অবস্থা আমার আসতে পারে--কি করে আমরা এই অবস্থায় শকলকে উদ্ধার করতে পারি তার জন্য চিন্তা করা উচিত। যে সমস্ত department যাবা দুভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্যই Government কর্তৃক নিযুক্ত হয়েছে, দেশের যারা উপকাব কবতে চায়, তাদের সেদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখা উচিত। এই সম্পর্কে দেশের প্রতিনিধিদের সঙ্গে ঘনিষ্ঠ সংযোগ রাখার জন্য অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের চেষ্টা করা উচিত। সেই ঘনিষ্ঠ সংযোগ কি করে হতে পারে? তা হতে পারে--যে সমস্ত ধানচাল deficit areas যাবে তা সেখানে ঠিকমত যাচ্ছে কি না সে যেমন procurement বিভাগ দেবেন তেমন আমাদেরও যাবা প্রতিনিধি তাবাও যেন জানতে পারেন কোন্ জায়গায় ধানচাল যাচ্ছে, বাইরে থেকে কত খাদ্যদ্রব্য আসছে ইত্যাদি। India Governmentএব একজন বড় কর্মচারী বলেছেন--বাংলা দেশ একটি গভীর খাদ, সেখানে যা পাঠান হয়--তা তলিয়ে যায়। এমন থেকেই দেশের প্রতিনিধিদের সঙ্গে গভর্ণমেন্টের সংযোগ রাখা দরকার। দেশের যেখানে উৎকৃষ্ট শস্য আছে সেটা যাতে ঘাটতি অঞ্চলে ঠিকমত যেতে পারে--তার ব্যবস্থা যদি সূর্যুভাবে করা যায় তবে এই দুর্নীতি বন্ধ হতে পারে। তাব জন্য সমবেত চেষ্টা যদি না হয় তাহ'লে এবার ১৯৪৩ সালের চেয়েও বড় ও ব্যাপকতর দুভিক্ষ হবে বলে আশা করি।

Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting a sound and stable budget in the existing circumstances. The time at my disposal is very short; so I won't repeat any point which has been mentioned by other members.

Bengal, as we all know, is a hopelessly deficit Province. The production of essential commodities such as rice, sugar, *dal*, mustard oil are much below the ordinary requirements of the people inhabiting in this Province. Proper provision should, therefore, have been made in the budget for the expansion of agriculture. This can be done by bringing in waste and all arable lands under cultivation. By providing for good seeds and manures and also by introducing improved and modern implements of agriculture, fertility of the soil and outturn of crops may be increased. Attention should have been bestowed on this direction and provided accordingly. Food is the only dominating factor at the present moment and any improvement in the increased production of food would have been treated as a blessing and moreover we need neither maintain such a huge army of officers in the Civil Supplies Department nor do we need hear complaints of dishonesty and corruption of these officers and at the same time a large sum of money may be saved which is spent for maintenance of these officers if we may be self-supporting in our own Province. The control has become a source of trouble to all people specially of the rural areas where there is no systematic rationing or regular supply and there are many cases of maldistribution. It would be very difficult to eradicate this evil of maldistribution, bribery and corruption unless and until all parties and communities irrespective of caste and creed combine and make it a common cause to stop these evils altogether.

In the Civil Supply Department in Calcutta some top key positions are held by non-Bengali Hindus who have no sympathy for the Bengalis and specially for the people of rural areas. Sir, you will be astonished to hear that one of the officers has issued a circular to the effect that A class people (i.e., labourers, cultivators and other poor people) will not get a grain of sugar not even on ceremonial occasions or for any festival, and *gur* which has been imported from U. P. and Bihar has been reserved for Howrah and Calcutta. This shows how these officers are callous and indifferent towards village people and differential treatments are always being accorded towards the people of rural areas.

A huge quantity of sugar are given for manufacturing sugarcandy of which there is no control of distribution and nobody knows where it goes and how it is disposed of and large quantities are allowed for different *melas* whereas poor village people are deprived of sugar even on ceremonial occasions.

No attempt is being made to increase production of sugar in our province and as a member of the Sugar Board I can assert that it will not be possible to increase its production unless the sugar industry is nationalised.

The next thing which I like to deal with is about primary education. In rural areas it has reached such a stage that primary education is going to be banished from the rural areas. In many cases there is no existence of houses for schools and where there are some there are no walls, no fencing, no furniture and teachers have become scarce and they have found employment in other services on account of small pay which are hardly sufficient to make both ends meet and the Government should take immediate steps to improve their lot and increase its number.

A very large sum of money has been provided for construction of roads under post-war reconstruction scheme, but no provision seems to have been made for construction of Dacca-Aricha Road which is a very important project. This Dacca-Aricha road problem has been agitating public mind for over a decade and the cry of the people to have this road has so far gone into wilderness. Dacca is only 54 miles from Goalundo, but it takes about 8 hours to reach Dacca, but if this road be constructed it will take not more than 2 or 3 hours. Hopes are always held out to construct this road, but owing to machination of vested interests mainly of I.G.S.N. and R.S.N. Co. this project we presume is not being taken up. The time has come when the Government should take courage in both hands and proceed with the construction of the proposed national highway, Dacca-Aricha road.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget estimates do not look like a poor man's budget framed for a poor and poverty-stricken Province. It bears analogy to the case of a householder who, while unable to feed his wife and children, employs liveried servants and footmen. It is a pompous budget framed for a perishing people. The only merit of the budget is its clarity. The Hon'ble Minister has been highly eulogised for presenting this wonderful budget. I do not want to add to the eulogies of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister made on the floor of the House. He must have blushed when he heard those eulogies and I do not want to call up the blushes again in his still youthful cheeks. One Hon'ble Member described him as "talented but an infant" (*নবালক*). There is a precedent in favour of that Hon'ble Minister. I am speaking of William Pitt, and of him the people said, when he became Premier of England, "Now we have a kingdom entrusted to a school boy's care".

I find in this budget we are facing a deficit of 10½ crores. We expected that there would be a scaling down of the higher levels of salary and the savings effected would go towards increasing the pay of the poorly paid officers. About the loss of a crore and a half on the boat construction programme, I ask this question—Who were the lucky contractors who were paid the money but did not deliver the boats?—Who was the officer under whose official dispensation contracts were distributed?—Whose specifications were placed before the contractors?—Did they work according to the specifications, if any?—Why were they paid if the boats constructed were not fit for the use for which they were constructed?—Why were not suits filed against them for recovery of the money taken by them? I ask the wizards of Finance in the language of Shakespeare—"Stay winged creatures, tell me more!"

Now about the General Administration and Police. I find extra expenditure amounting to half a crore incurred in the shape of purchase of four hundred jeep cars and a number of speedy light planes under the head "General Administration" and mechanised transport for the Police. Sir, this is persecution on scientific lines, swift and speedy persecution of the freedom-loving people. Here we find the return of the days of John Company with this difference that we have now tryanny systematised and plunder made scientific. All these items of expenditure should be scrapped and the money utilised for bringing about the economic development of the Province.

As regards the procurement scheme I have some concrete suggestions to make. The machinery for procurement has not been working satisfactorily. Procurement should be done by Government alone. Instead of that, Government have defended for the procurement machinery on three private agencies to the exclusion of a large number of experienced rice merchants in the Province. Government should subsidize the purchase of rice direct from the cultivator and sell the same to consumers at a comparatively cheap price. Instead of that Government have adopted the policy of appointing three procurement agents. The result has been widespread black-marketing; there has been plenty of stocks but nothing to eat. I think the only sensible course on the part of the Government is to fix the maximum price of rice and entrust the work of procurement to as many *bona fide* rice merchants as possible. You should appoint one merchant in each subdivision to work under the general supervision of certain officers. Or after fixing the maximum price of rice and textiles, Government should allow trade in rice and textiles to run through the normal trade channels. Eliminate middlemen and see that the tiller of the soil and the weaver of the cloth get the full benefit of the procurement scheme.

I wish to say a few words on Emergency charges—Famine Relief and Extraordinary Charges. Sir, the hierarchy of officials in the Food Department impresses no one. It does not solve the problem of food, but it only increases the cost. With regard to Extraordinary charges there is a loss of two crores on the sale of subsidized foodstuffs to the public. This is an eloquent indictment of the Government's bungling and inefficiency.. Doubtless a great deal of the loss is ascribed to the huge waste of foodgrains due to lack of storage facilities and damage caused by rodents. Were they human rodents? We want to know who were responsible for that. Did anybody weigh the stocks of rice which were supposed to have deteriorated? Or, did the stock disappear into the blackmarket or sold again at such a high price as Rs. 12 per maund? (At this stage the blue light was on.) Sir, there are many other topics on which I want to speak but, I am afraid, my time is up. (The member then resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: You can speak for one or two minutes more. Your time is not yet up; the blue light is only a warning.

Mr. SATISH CHANDRA BASU: But as I would not be able to develop and conclude my points by that time, I would rather sit down.

Mr. JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: গভর্ণমেন্টের লক্ষ্য হবে law and orderএর দিকে তত নয়—যতটা হবে progressএর দিকে। Progress বলতে প্রধানতঃ বুঝতে হবে, health, wealth and education. আমি আমাদের মাননীয় Finance Ministerএর health, wealth and educationএর কথা বলছি না। এই কয়েকটা গুণ যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে তাঁর আছে। আপামর জনসাধারণ যাতে health, wealth এবং education পায় সেদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখতে হবে। Healthএর বিষয় বলতে গেলে বলতে হয় বাংলার জীবনীশক্তি ত্রুণঃ কমে যাচ্ছে। আমাদের পশ্চিম বঙ্গের লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় মরছে। কিন্তু ম্যালেরিয়া যাতে দূর হতে পারে সেদিকে বিশেষ কোন চেষ্টা নাই। আমেরিকানরা যে স্থানে আছে—সেখানে দেখা যায় তাদের অন্ততঃ ৪৫ মাইলের মধ্যে কোন বকম মশা বা ম্যালেরিয়া নাই। তাবা যেভাবে পুকুর পরিষ্কারের ব্যবস্থা করেছে এবং তাতে কেবোদিন ঢেলে এবং প্রত্যেক ঘরে ঘরে flit দিয়ে মশা তাড়াবার ব্যবস্থা করেছে সেই রকম যদি কয়েক স্থানেও কবতে পারেন তাহলে ম্যালেরিয়া ও মশা বিতাড়নের ব্যবস্থা করতে পারবেন।

Wealthএ কথা বলতে গেলে agriculturistদের standard of living যদি না বাড়ান যায় তাহ'লে কোন wealth বাড়বে না--দেশের সম্পদ বাড়বে না। এই Wealthএর জন্য আবার পশ্চিম বঙ্গে--দরকার বড় বড় canal-irrigationএর ব্যবস্থা। বাংলা দেশে চাষে যা উৎপন্ন হয় তা পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য দেশের তুলনায় সবচেয়ে কম। জাপানে তিনগুণ, স্পেনের কথা আব উল্লেখ করার দরকার নাই। একমাত্র বর্ধমান সবডিভিসনে রীতিমত irrigation system দ্বারাই সবচেয়ে বেশী জমি চাষ করা সম্ভব হয়েছে। হুগলী-হাওড়াতে সেইরূপ করা সম্ভব হয় নাই। তারপর একটা বড় project দামোদর ডালি--সে

সম্বন্ধে এখানে বাজেটে কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। বড় বড় expertরা plan দিলেন তার দরুণ কিছু টাকা খরচ হ'ল। অথচ দামোদর ভ্যালীর জন্য বর্তমান বাজেটে কোন টাকা ধরা হয় নাই। Irrigation and canal system যদি ভাল না হয় তাহ'লে পশ্চিম বঙ্গ বাঁচবে না এবং সেই সঙ্গে বাংলাও বাঁচবে না। কোন কোন বন্ধু বলেছেন, এবার পশ্চিমবঙ্গে irrigationএ বহু টাকা ধরা হয়েছে। আমি বলতে চাই যদি এই পশ্চিম বঙ্গের জন্য বেশী টাকা ধরা হয়েছে মনে করেন, তাহ'লে পশ্চিম বঙ্গকে আলাদা করে দিন; তাহ'লে আপনাবাও বাঁচবেন আমবাও বাঁচব। তাহ'লে আর এত ভাবতে হবে না। এই বর্তমান ডিভিসনে জন্য যদি বাজেটে আলাদা ব্যবস্থা হয় যে কত টাকা আয় হয় আর কি পরিমাণ টাকা তার জন্য ব্যয় হয়--তাহলে দেখা যাবে বর্ধমানের মাথায় কাঁঠাল ভেঙ্গে কতজনকে খাচ্ছে। কথায় বলে--“বার ধন তার ধন ন নেপো মারে দই।”

Mr. ABDUL MOMIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, for the first time, take stand to record my vote of thanks to the Finance Minister for placing the budget for the year 1946-47 and I thank the Ministers for not taking any substantial project or plan for ameliorating the condition of East Bengal which, I believe, the East Bengal people greatly needed. I am speaking of the problem of evacuees of East Bengal in regard to which the Revenue Minister has sadly disappointed us. This is a problem, a burning problem of the day. Any man of common sense must feel what a colossal injustice the Government is doing over these poor, homeless, heartless and defenceless people in the name of law, equity and justice. (Cries of “hear,” “hear from the Opposition benches.”)

Mr. Speaker, this is not a problem of a class, this is not a question of privilege or of favour, this is a demand, a lawful demand, of so many heartless, homeless people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, as Secretary of the Tippera Evacuees, had a chance to see the horrible sight when millions of people evacuated their homes and properties. As the time allotted is very short, it is not possible for me to criticize the entire budget *in toto*. Therefore, I will devote myself particularly to some subjects. Now, I am speaking about the evacuees. When the war was peeping in the eastern horizon of India, when there was none absolutely to stand by the side of this Imperialist Government, these poor people of ours for the safety of the people and the country without any noise and grumbling made an unconditional surrender to the will of the authorities. They vacated not only their houses, not only their properties but they left their children in a scattered condition. Now, these people of ours are passing like clouds on the waves of time and circumstance. They did so only because of the fact that the then Magistrate Khan Bahadur Kalimuddin Ahmed and Mr. Stracey assured them that in view of their sacrifices, they would be amply rewarded when the time and circumstance would come to their normal condition. But the fun is this, it is a bluff, a regular bluff. Perhaps they did it just like a good boy, a faithful boy of the Government or to build up a glorious future for themselves. Owing to wholesale evacuation, the cries of children rent the sky and there was sobbing noise of men and women everywhere. I believe the Hon'ble Minister of Finance must take it into account and this is the demand that he must make some project to ameliorate the condition of these people.

Sir, next I will speak something about agriculture. The project that has been taken up by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture is, I believe, meant exclusively for West Bengal and I tell you there is no substantial plan from the Hon'ble Minister for the people of East Bengal.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-11 p.m. till 9-30 a.m. on Friday, 2nd August 1946, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

